

# Analyze and Visualize: The King's Responsibility



This activity pairs well with Part Four of the film at pause point 01:28:26.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Translate text into your own words
- Analyze text to decipher the argument of each character
- Evaluate and critique character relationships
- Develop definitive points of view about the events in *Henry V*

## MATERIALS

- Act Four, Scene One Handout (page 3)

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Part One - Investigate the Text

**Step One:** Divide the class into groups of three and have them read Act Four, Scene One aloud.

**Step Two:** Project or hand out the excerpt for translation. Model as a class how to translate the first few lines into their own words. Then allow group members to translate the rest of the excerpt into their own words.

**Step Three:** Using their translation, students will analyze the arguments made by the characters in the text.

### Part Two - Analyze and Visualize

**Step One:** Draw a two-column chart on the whiteboard and label one column "Henry" and the other "Williams." Break down each argument into the different points the character articulate. Use the chart to visually display each argument, point by point. Refer to the text as needed.

**Step Two:** Discuss the validity of each argument. Offer discussion questions below as needed.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who do you agree with? Why?
- Do you think either argument is wrong?
- Do you think either viewpoint is self-serving?
- Using this argument as evidence, do you think *Henry V* is a pro-war or anti-war play? Why?

# Act Four, Scene One

ANALYZE AND VISUALIZE: THE KING'S RESPONSIBILITY



## SHAKESPEARE'S TEXT

### Bates

If his cause be wrong, our obedience to the king wipes the crime of it out of us.

### Williams

But if the cause be not good, the king himself hath a heavy reckoning to make, when all those legs and arms and heads, chopped off in a battle, shall join together at the latter day, and cry all, "We died at such a place," some swearing, some crying for a surgeon, some upon their wives left poor behind them, some upon the debts they owe, some upon their children rawly left. I am afeard there are few die well that die in a battle, for how can they charitably dispose of anything, when blood is their argument? Now, if these men do not die well, it will be a black matter for the king that led them to it, who to disobey were against all proportion of subjection.

### King Henry

So, if a son that is by his father sent about merchandise do sinfully miscarry upon the sea, the imputation of his wickedness, by your rule, should be imposed upon his father that sent him. Or if a servant, under his master's command transporting a sum of money, be assailed by robbers and die in many irreconciled iniquities, you may call the business of the master the author of

## YOUR TRANSLATIONS

### Bates

### Williams

### King Henry

## SHAKESPEARE'S TEXT

the servant's damnation. But this is not so. The king is not bound to answer the particular endings of his soldiers, the father of his son, nor the master of his servant, for they purpose not their death, when they purpose their services. Besides, there is no king, be his cause never so spotless, if it come to the arbitrament of swords, can try it out with all unspotted soldiers. Some, peradventure, have on them the guilt of premeditated and contrived murder; some, of beguiling virgins with the broken seals of perjury; some, making the wars their bulwark. Now, if these men have defeated the law and outrun native punishment, though they can outstrip men, they have no wings to fly from God. Every subject's duty is the king's, but every subject's soul is his own.

**Williams**

'Tis certain, every man that dies ill, the ill upon his own head. The king is not to answer it.

**Bates**

I do not desire he should answer for me, and yet I determine to fight lustily for him.

**King Henry**

I myself heard the king say he would not be ransomed.

## YOUR TRANSLATIONS

**Williams****Bates****King Henry**

## SHAKESPEARE'S TEXT

**Williams**

Ay, he said so, to make us fight cheerfully,  
but when our throats are cut, he may be  
ransomed, and we ne'er the wiser.

**King Henry**

If I live to see it, I will never trust his  
word after.

**Williams**

You pay him then. That's a perilous shot  
out of an elder gun, that a poor and private  
displeasure can do against a monarch. You  
may as well go about to turn the sun to ice  
with fanning in his face with a peacock's  
feather. You'll "never trust his word after."  
Come, 'tis a foolish saying.

**King Henry**

Your reproof is something too round.  
I should be angry with you if the time  
were convenient.

**Williams**

Let it be a quarrel between us, if you live.

**King Henry**

I embrace it.

## YOUR TRANSLATIONS

**Williams****King Henry****Williams****King Henry****Williams****King Henry**