

- IV. Read the excerpt from *King Henry the Fifth* and answer questions 37 to 44 from your Questions Booklet.

KING HENRY THE FIFTH, Act IV, Scene i

CHARACTERS:

King Henry V — King of England
 Bedford — Duke of Bedford, brother to the King
 Gloucester — Duke of Gloucester, brother to the King
 Sir Thomas Erpingham } officers in the King's army
 Gower }
 Fluellen }
 Pistol — soldier in the King's army

The English army have invaded France and are camped at Agincourt waiting for daybreak. The French, who are well prepared for them, are camped nearby.

(Enter KING HENRY, BEDFORD, and GLOUCESTER)

KING HENRY: Gloucester, 'tis true that we are in great danger;

The greater therefore should our courage be.

Good morrow, brother Bedford. God Almighty!

5 There is some soul of goodness in things evil,
 Would men observingly distil it out;

For our bad neighbour makes us early stirrers,
 Which is both healthful and good husbandry.

10 Besides, they are our outward consciences

And preachers to us all, admonishing

That we should dress us fairly for our end.

Thus may we gather honey from the weed,

And make a moral of the devil himself.

(Enter ERPINGHAM)

15 Good morrow, old Sir Thomas Erpingham.

A good soft pillow for that good white head

Were better than a churlish turf of France.

ERPINGHAM: Not so, my liege; this lodging likes me better,
 Since I may say, "Now lie I like a king."

20 **KING HENRY:** 'Tis good for men to love their present pains

Upon example; so the spirit is eas'd;

And when the mind is quick'ned, out of doubt,

The organs, though defunct and dead before,

Break up their drowsy grave and newly move,

25 With casted slough and fresh legerity.

Lend me thy cloak, Sir Thomas. Brothers both,

Commend me to the princes in our camp;

Do my good morrow to them, and anon

Desire them all to my pavilion.

30 **GLOUCESTER:** We shall, my liege.

Continued

ERPINGHAM: Shall I attend your Grace?
KING HENRY: No, my good knight;
 Go with my brothers to my lords of England.
 I and my bosom must debate a while,
 35 And then I would no other company.
ERPINGHAM: The Lord in heaven bless thee, noble Harry!
(Exeunt [all but KING HENRY])
KING HENRY: God-a-mercy, old heart! thou speak'st cheerfully.
(Enter PISTOL)
 40 **PISTOL:** *Qui va là?*
KING HENRY: A friend.
PISTOL: Discuss unto me; art thou officer?
 Or art thou base, common, and popular?
KING HENRY: I am a gentleman of a company.
 45 **PISTOL:** Trail'st thou the puissant¹ pike?²
KING HENRY: Even so. What are you?
PISTOL: As good a gentleman as the Emperor.
KING HENRY: Then you are a better than the King.
PISTOL: The King's a bawcock,³ and a heart of gold,
 50 A lad of life, an imp of fame;
 Of parents good, of fist most valiant.
 I kiss his dirty shoe, and from heart-string
 I love the lovely bully. What is thy name?
KING HENRY: Harry le Roy.
 55 **PISTOL:** Le Roy! a Cornish name. Art thou of Cornish crew?
KING HENRY: No, I am a Welshman.
PISTOL: Know'st thou Fluellen?
KING HENRY: Yes.
PISTOL: Tell him, I'll knock his leek about his pate
 60 Upon Saint Davy's day.⁴
KING HENRY: Do not wear your dagger in your cap that day, lest he
 knock that about yours.
PISTOL: Art thou his friend?
KING HENRY: And his kinsman too.
 65 **PISTOL:** The *figo* for thee, then!
KING HENRY: I thank you. God be with you!
PISTOL: My name is Pistol call'd.
(Exit PISTOL)
KING HENRY: It sorts well with your fierceness.

William Shakespeare

¹puissant — mighty, powerful

²pike — a long sword-like weapon

³bawcock — a good fellow

⁴leek . . . day — the Welsh wore leeks in their caps to commemorate a victory over the Saxons, as ordered by their patron saint, David.