Henry's speech

Act 3 Scene 1

The following pages include word, sentence and text level activities based around Henry's monologue in Act 3 Scene 1.

Children could record their answers using the given templates or the session could be primarily discussion based.

For Upper KS2, the activities can be more child led whereas for Lower KS2 a more guided session would be appropriate.

The analysis of the language and imagery used in this extract would be an excellent basis for a perfomance of this speech or a deeper character study of Henry.

Note: this in an abridged version of the origianl text.



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Henry V
Reading

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more,
Or close the wall up with our English dead.
In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humility,
But when the blast of war blows in our ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger:
Stiffen the sinews, conjure up the blood,
Disguise fair nature with hard-favoured rage,
Then lend the eye a terrible aspect:
Now set the teeth and stretch the nostril wide,
Hold hard the breath and bend up every spirit
To his full height. On, on, you noblest English,
I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips,
Straining upon the start. The game's afoot:
Follow your spirit, and upon this charge
Cry 'God for Harry, England, and Saint George!'

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Word Level Activities

FInd 4 words in the text that you have not heard before. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word

Word	Meaning

In this speech, Henry is trying to inspire his soldiers for one last final attack against the French. In the box below, write down all the words that Shakespeare uses to suggest that this is going to be a tough and fierce battle.

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Henry V

Reading

Sentence Level Activities

Find the lines in the text that match the sentences below.

We need to fight one more time.

Hide your natural kindness with anger.

Hide your natural kindness with anger.

Grit your teeth and look ferocious.

I can see that you are ready to go.

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Text Level Activities

Henry V

Reading

Summarise what Henry is saying in this monologue.

Oracy

Discuss your ideas with a partner. You can use the box below each question to write down any key quotes or other evidence to support your ideas.

How would you describe Henry after reading this speech? Is he wise, foolish, passionate? Why do you think this?

Which lines do you think are the most emotive? Why?

What effect is Shakespeare trying to create in this speech? How does he do this?

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