***Henry V*: St. Crispin’s Day Speech**

*Henry's army is tired and hungry. They face battle with the French army and they are badly out-numbered, and expect defeat. Henry starts by speaking to his cousin, but then speaks to the entire army.*

King Henry V:

This day is called the feast of Crispian[[1]](#footnote-1):   
He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,  
Will stand a tip-toe when the day is named,   
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.   
He that shall live this day, and see old age, 5  
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,   
And say 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian:'   
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars.  
And say 'These wounds I had on Crispin's day.'   
Old men forget: yet all shall be forgot, 10  
But he'll remember with advantages   
What feats he did that day: then shall our names.  
Familiar in his mouth as household words   
Harry the king, Bedford and Exeter,   
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester, 15  
Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd.   
This story shall the good man teach his son;   
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,   
From this day to the ending of the world,   
But we in it shall be remember'd; 20  
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me   
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,   
This day shall gentle his condition:   
And gentlemen in England now a-bed 25  
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,  
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks   
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

1. **What tone does Henry take in his speech? [RL 4]**
   1. sad b. apathetic c. humorous d. motivational
2. **What mood is created in Henry’s speech? [RL 4]**
   1. fearful b. inspired c. amused d. solemn
3. **According to Henry’s speech, how will the day’s infamy live on? [RL 10]**
   1. The countrymen’s love of history b. memories and stories from participants
   2. Memories and stories from participants d. by reading about it in a book
4. **Line 21 is an example of what literary device? [L 5]**
   1. Allusion b. repetition c. parallelism d. metaphor
5. **What is the effect of the literary device in line 21? [RL 4]**
   1. It suggests that these experiences alienate participants from the rest of society.
   2. It suggests that going through similar hardships creates an unbreakable connection among those involved.
   3. It suggests that only those who survive will be remembered.
   4. It suggests that it is unlikely that participants will want to talk about the experience ever again.
6. **Lines 25-29 indicate that [RL 10]**
   1. Participants are manlier than those who were not there.
   2. Those who were not present want to reenact the experience.
   3. All men should try to avoid these experiences.
   4. All men should try to have these experiences.
7. **Line 18 implies that good men should [RL 10]**
   1. Embellish the stories of war.
   2. Instruct their sons about how to avoid war.
   3. Tell many stories to guests.
   4. Teach history and patriotism to the future generations.
8. **What is the effect of using second person point of view? [RL 6]**
   1. It allows King Henry to better criticize those who are not participating.
   2. It creates a sense of empowerment and unity.
   3. It makes the audience more likely to understand the theme.
   4. It gives the reader a sense of fear because King Henry is angry.
9. **Why does King Henry list the names in lines 14 and 15? [RL 5]**
   1. To mention heroes that should have participated
   2. To make the audience question to whom Henry is addressing
   3. To explain that the participants can achieve greatness
   4. To list, as a warning, those who have died
10. **Which of the following would be a theme for this speech? [RL 2]**
    1. A unified force can be victorious and become infamous.
    2. Individuals are stronger than a group.
    3. Dedication to a cause can lead to a controversy.
    4. Leaders are the most important people in a regiment.
11. **What is the purpose of the speech? [RL 6]**
    1. to give the soldiers an “out” if they choose not to fight
    2. to suggest that the enemy is morally inferior to the British people
    3. to give the soldiers a reason to fight proudly
    4. to berate the men for their cowardly fears in the face of a larger enemy force
12. **What modern event would this speech be appropriate for? [RL 1]**

a.The birth of a child

b. A holiday feast

c. A football game

d. The crowning of a king

**Constructed Response:**

***How does Shakespeare use diction to establish a specific mood in the St. Crispin’s day speech?***

1. Twin brothers, Crispin and Crispinian, who preached Christianity to the savage Gauls in the 3rd century. They were tried, tortured, and eventually killed for their blasphemous practices. Named saints of cobblers, tanners, curriers, and leather workers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)