

1 Henry IV

War and Conflict

- The play opens in the aftermath of war, with King Henry wishing for an end to 'civil butchery'.
- Civil war between the forces of King Henry and the forces of Hotspur and his allies.

Death and Violence

- The war results in significant violence and many deaths, including Falstaff leading his men (roughly 150) to massacre.

Xenophobia

- Hotspur repeatedly mocks Glendower's Welsh identity and the Welsh language.

Religious Prejudice

- Like *Richard II*, *1 Henry IV* alludes to the crusades and the belief that Christians could 'reclaim' the holy land from Muslims and stop the expansion of Muslim empires.
- The play uses discriminatory language – like 'pagans' – to refer to non-Christians.
- Falstaff equates being Jewish with dishonesty, and uses the epithet 'Jew' in a discriminatory manner: 'or I am a Jew else, an 'Ebrew Jew.'

Fatphobia

- Falstaff's body is repeatedly mocked and insulted. For example, Falstaff is described as a 'huge hill of flesh', a 'fat rogue' and as having 'fat guts'. Whilst Falstaff appears unaffected by these insults, this type of language can be sensitive for some.

Alcohol

- Falstaff's excessive drinking could be triggering for some, especially as it often framed as an addiction which leads to money troubles.

Misogynistic Language

- Northumberland accuses Hotspur of being in a 'woman's mood' because he consistently speaks over Worcester, with the insinuation being that women talk too much and do not listen enough.

Ableism

- Terms like 'mad' or 'clay-brained' (meaning dull-witted) are repeatedly used as insults.