

### THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Activity Pack 3

Falstaff is a jolly, fat man who never has any money – he spends more than he can afford.

He decides he will start affairs with two rich ladies to solve his money problems.

Mrs Ford and Mrs Page work out what he is doing and plan their revenge.

Mr and Mrs Page also have a daughter who is beautiful and everyone wants to marry.

Mr Page wants her to marry a young and quite simple man called Slender. Mrs Page wants her to marry the French Dr Causis.

Ann Page wants to marry the young and handsome Fenton.

Mr Ford is a jealous man and thinks his wife may be cheating on him so he disguises

himself as a Mr Brook and asks Falstaff to woo Mrs Ford to see if she can be tempted to have an affair.

Falstaff is invited to Mrs Ford's house but then has to hide from her husband in the laundry basket and gets thrown 'accidentally' in the river. He is not amused at ending up filthy and soaking wet.

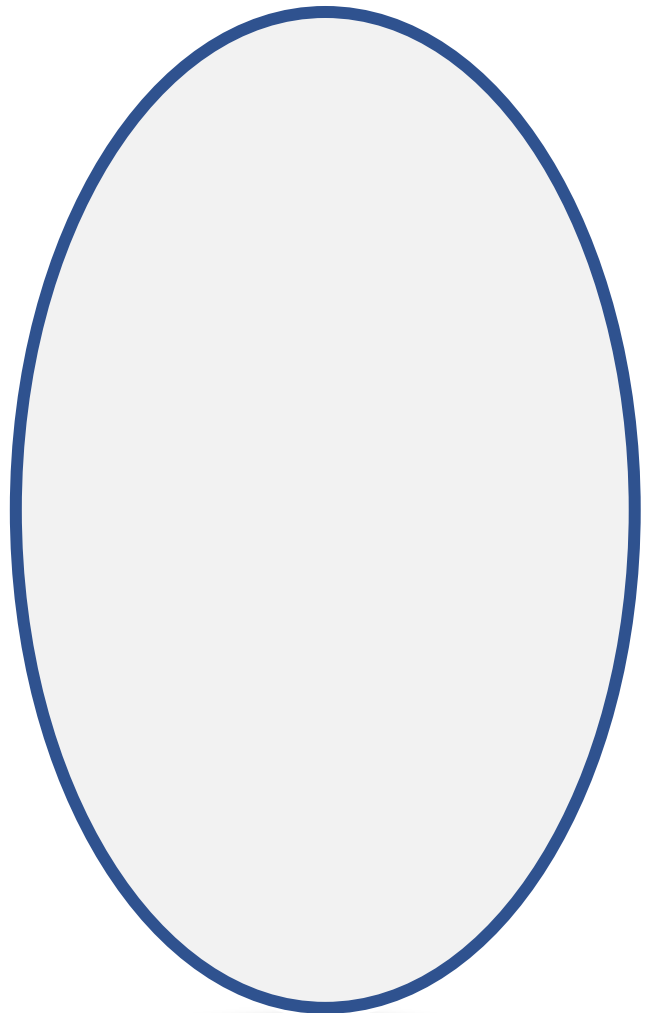
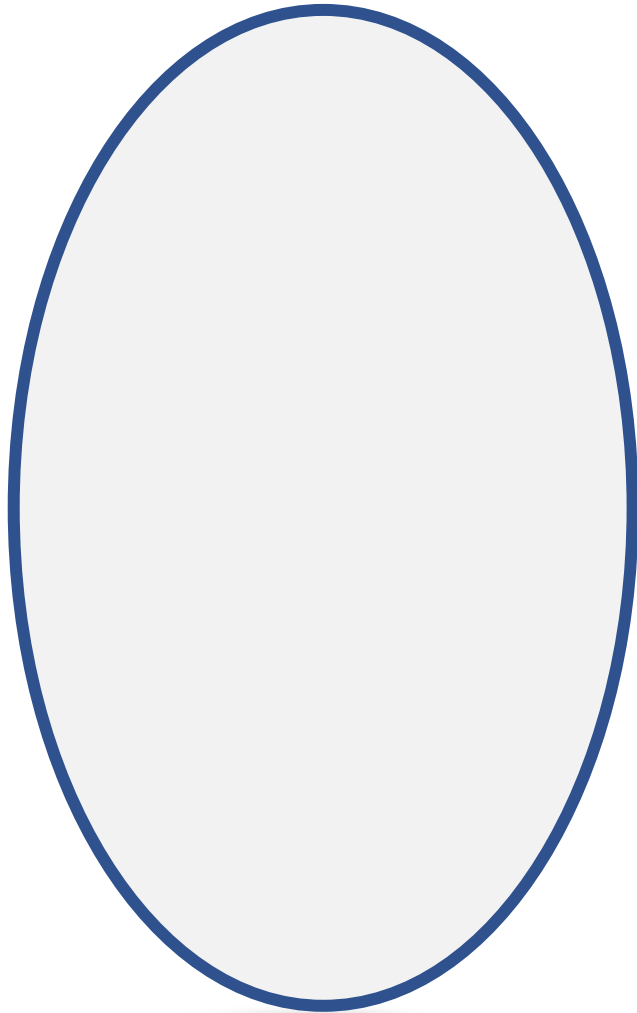
The two women had such fun that they invite him back again and this time he has to disguise himself as a woman when Mr Ford appears, he disguises himself as 'the fat woman of Brentford' who Mr Ford hates and he is chased from the house, having abuse shouted after him.

They then tell their husbands and agree to play one final trick on Falstaff, inviting him to meet them at the forest at night where they tease him by having several people pretending to be fairies and scaring him. Mr Page has told Slender that Ann will be disguised in white and to steal her away. Mrs Page has told Dr Causis that Ann will be disguised in green and to steal her away. Meanwhile Ann disguises herself in purple and runs away with Fenton – returning only once they have married! Slender and Dr Causis find they have instead run away with the postmaster's boy and another young man – not what they expected!

They eventually tell Falstaff the truth about their revenge and he learns his lesson!



Mr Ford disguises himself as Mr Brook – what would the before and after picture look like for the disguise? What props can he use to disguise himself and then easily return to his normal look (as he does several times throughout the play)?



Falstaff is very sure of himself and declares 'setting the attractions of my good parts aside, I have no other charms.' What might he think his charms are and what would others really think of those 'charms'

Falstaff is a bumbling buffoon – a comic character that the audience like but laugh at. Based on that, what do you think he wrote in his love letter to Mrs Ford and to Mrs Page (he used exactly the same letter for them both!)....

*Dear Mrs\_\_\_\_\_*

*Much Love  
Sir John Falstaff  
xx*

Falstaff's plans to woo these two for the money that they have rather backfires and he ends up in a series of awkward and embarrassing situations. But he never admits to anyone else what happened – he keeps up appearances. For each of the three incidents imagine what he would write about what really happened and then the message he would give to others about the same event....

Event	The truth	The story
Thrown in the river Thames		
Chased up the road disguised as a woman		
Taunted by 'fairies' in the forest		

Unscramble the tiles to reveal the quotation. What is the line?  
Mrs Ford wants revenge on Falstaff for his misplaced wooing

A	S	I	L	L	,	A	A	D	E	U	R	E	P	U	S	G	I	W		
S	S	E	D		B	E	E	N	G	E	M	U	T	S	N	G	S	D	D	I
R	E	V		H	I		A	R		O	F									


Mr Ford decides that time is of the essence to catch his wife cheating.

T	H	A	M	L	A	O	S	T	H	O	O	N	A	N	U	R	S			
T	E	T	O	O	I	N	U	T	E	H	O	T	E	R	B	E	T	R	E	E
T	O																			


Mrs Page sums up the situation

M	A	Y	R	R	Y	H	O	N	D	O	O	W	I	V	M	E	T	T		
Y	E	T	B	E	N	E	S	,	A	E	S									


Mr Ford has the final word to Falstaff

T	R	E	M	I	S	D		L	I	E	H	O	L	T	O	O	U	R	M	A	S
H	E		W	I		T	O	S	S		R	D	,	N	I	G	L	L		H	T
F	O	R	S	H	A	T	E	R	L	L	O	O	K	D	Y	F	O	R	E	T	
Y	O		B	R	U	Y	S	H	A		W	O	T	H							
