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Falstaff is a grotesque and detestable specimen of man. His only humour is that of self-glorification and masked intentions. He is a thief and deceives even those who are his closest companions. His chauvinism blinds him from seeing that any woman can be knowledgeable. The role of Falstaff in *Henry IV Part 1* is to demonstrate darker side of Prince Hal.

Falstaff's primary concern is with enjoying the pleasures of life—good drink, good food, and good women—and not with loyalty to king or country. Through Prince Hal's speech in response to Falstaff's query in I.2 as to the time of day, the reader is immediately aware of the behaviour of this man. Through his mocking of Falstaff it is clear that Prince Hal had rejected the gluttonous lifestyle of Falstaff, but in other regards Prince Hal does not reject all of the temptations of Falstaff.

Much of Falstaff's humour comes from his self-glorifying lies. An example of this—and his compulsion to feed himself exceedingly—is found in III.3 when Falstaff uses vivid imagery to describe how malnourished he is; however, he is just as portly as ever. The outrageous story Falstaff concocts in II.4 is another example of self-glorifying lies. Falstaff attempts to play both sides in some respects: in III.3 during the episode with the hostess he insults the Prince, but then once exposed by the hostess he calls her a liar.

At least twice Falstaff is shown as a liar. In Hal's and Falstaff's mock dialogue between the Prince and the King, it is apparent that Prince Hal sees Falstaff as a liar, but still he retains him. Falstaff plays the role as the darker side of the Prince. This demonstrates that at this point the prince is not ready to reject this side of his personality. Prince Hal is also a thief and has deceived others, but to complete his self-change he must reject this side and Falstaff himself.