



NAME: _____ DATE: _____ CLASS PERIOD: _____

“Humor” Excerpt:
Merry Wives of Windsor, Act 2, Scene 1

CONTEXT: Nym is a loyal friend and servant of a man named Falstaff who is trying to trick some married women (including the wife of Master Page). In this speech to Master Page, Nym decides not to help Falstaff take advantage of these women, and instead reveals Falstaff’s mischievous plans.

TASK: As you read Nym’s speech, note that “humor” is used in different ways in one brief speech. The definition may be different from what you expect. Read the speech carefully, and do your best to **infer** the meaning of each use of “humor.” Fill in synonyms for each use of “humor” in the blanks below.

NYM [to Master Page]

And this is true; I like not the **humour** of lying. He hath wronged me in some **humours**: I should have borne the **humoured** letter to her; but I have a sword and it shall bite upon my necessity. He loves your wife; there’s the short and the long. My name is Corporal Nym; I speak and I avouch; ‘tis true: my name is Nym and Falstaff loves your wife. Adieu. I love not the **humour** of bread and cheese, and there’s the **humour** of it. Adieu.

(Source: <http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/MobMerr.html>)

And this is true; I like not the _____ of lying. He hath wronged me in some _____: I should have borne the _____ letter to her; but I have a sword and it shall bite upon my necessity. He loves your wife; there’s the short and the long. My name is Corporal Nym; I speak and I avouch; ‘tis true: my name is Nym and Falstaff loves your wife. Adieu. I love not the _____ of bread and cheese, and there’s the _____ of it. Adieu.