**CSYS Robert Henryson: The Cock and the Jasp Worksheet**

Name……………….. Teacher…………………… Date………….

1 . Note that the first stanza is entirely narrative; what then is the second stanza?

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2. The rest of the fable, with the exception of the last stanza, is in the form of

direct speech, a lengthy monologue from the cock, introduced by *"quod he”* on line

78; make sure that you understand the rest of that line. What does it mean?

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3. What is the reason given in lines 78‑91 for his not taking the stone?

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4. What is the reason given in lines 99‑105?

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5, What does line 102 mean?

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6. What techniques does Henryson employ on lines 106‑109?

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7. Notice Henryon's *excusatio* on line 119; what is he doing?

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8. With which three phrases does he re‑introduce the narrator in the last stanza

of the fable?

i ii iii………………………...

9. When we come to consider the *Moralitas*, we have to ask what Henryson is up to: he begins by referring to the supposed seven properties of the jasp, but does not then go on to enumerate them; what power does the jasp have, according to the first stanza of the *Moralitas*?

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10. And what power is mentioned in the second stanza?

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11. What techniques are employed in lines 133‑136?

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12. Line 142 comes to a remarkable conclusion; what is unexpected about it?

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13. The cock is compared to a foolish man: what is the foolish man then

compared to?

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14. By line 155 it seems clear that Henryson is using the jasp as a symbol for

something else; what, do you think?

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15. Notice the introduction of the narrator again in the last few lines, and the

seemingly casual dismissal in the last line. (Copy it:)

…………………………………………………………………………………………..

16. It has been suggested that Henryson has begun with this simple tale and

given it a very unexpected *Moralitas* as a warning that we have to be on our guard

and be alert to the interpretations offered; does this seem likely to you, or can you

suggest another reason for the seeming disparity between tale and *Moralitas*?

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