

Photocopiable teaching resources

KS4 RICHARD III

by William Shakespeare



© B & D Publishing 2006. ISBN 978 1 904790 24 2

This material is copyright free within the purchasing establishment only



KING RICHARD III



Although the sense of the past evoked in the rhetoric of the choric and ritual scenes is necessary to the play, it is a burden on modern audiences, who must sort out current intrigues and factious alignments even as they try to make sense of the references made to earlier events - the atrocities committed at Wakefield, Towton, and Tewkesbury. We need not assume, however, that Shakespeare's audiences were so familiar with *Henry VI Part 3* or with the *Chronicles* that they could interpret each of the allusions to the past. Nor need we attempt to provide extensive historical notes for modern audiences, because the play provides what information they need. It does not matter precisely what crimes Clarence, Hastings, Rivers, or Grey committed (or allowed) in the past; what matters is that all were involved to some degree in the atrocities of the civil war.

Robert Ornstein *A Kingdom for a Stage: The Achievement of Shakespeare's History Plays.*

Contents

Before the play begins	Page 1	Richard accepts the crown	Page 31
Richard Duke of Gloucester	Page 2	<i>Richard III</i> - Act Three	Page 32
The play begins	Page 3	Act Three Revision	Page 33
Richard and Clarence	Page 4	Outside the Tower of London	Page 34
Richard reveals his plans	Page 5	Buckingham falls from grace	Page 35
Lady Anne	Page 6	Act Four Scene Two	Page 36
Richard and Lady Anne	Page 7	The Clock Passage	Page 37
Richard in Act One Scene Two	Page 8	Act Four Scene Three	Page 38
Queen Elizabeth	Page 9	Act Four Scene Four	Page 39
Conflict in the court	Page 10	"Thou toad, thou toad"	Page 40
Margaret listens to the arguments	Page 11	Richard's enemies close in	Page 41
"Hear me, you wrangling pirates"	Page 12	<i>Richard III</i> - Act Four	Page 42
Queen Margaret	Page 13	Act Four Revision	Page 43
"My naked villainy"	Page 14	Buckingham is executed	Page 44
Clarence's dream	Page 15	Richmond rallies his followers	Page 45
Enter the two murderers	Page 16	Act Five Scene Three	Page 46
<i>Richard III</i> - Act One	Page 17	Act Five Scene Three - ghosts	Page 47
Act One Revision	Page 18	Richard's soliloquy Act Five Scene Three	Page 48
King Edward tries to end the quarrels	Page 19	The Battle of Bosworth	Page 49
The king is dead	Page 20	<i>Richard III</i> - Act Five	Page 50
"Truly the hearts of men are full of fear"	Page 21	Act Five Revision	Page 51
"Accursed and unquiet wrangling days"	Page 22	Richard III	Page 52
<i>Richard III</i> - Act Two	Page 23	Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond	Page 53
Act Two Revision	Page 24	Dreams	Page 54
"Your highness shall repose you . . ."	Page 25	Crime and Punishment / Sin and Salvation	Page 55
Richard conspires with Buckingham	Page 26	Images of nature and the seasons	Page 56
Hastings fails to see the danger	Page 27	Images of blood and butchery	Page 57
"Oh Pomfret, Pomfret!"	Page 28	Animal Imagery	Page 58
The downfall of Hastings	Page 29	Appendix A	
Richard fools the mayor	Page 30	Extract from <i>Henry VI</i> Part Three	Page 59

Richard III on screen

The original BBC (1983) version of the play sticks very closely to Shakespeare's text. This is a good performance and is available as part of the BBC's "Shakespeare Collection".

The production starring Ian McKellen is very effectively set in 1930's England. This is available on DVD .

Laurence Olivier's 1953 version, which includes some material from *Henry VI*, and some of Colley Cibber's later additions, is still an effective portrayal of Richard. It is available on DVD.

© B & D Publishing P. O. Box 4658 Stratford Upon Avon England CV37 1EP



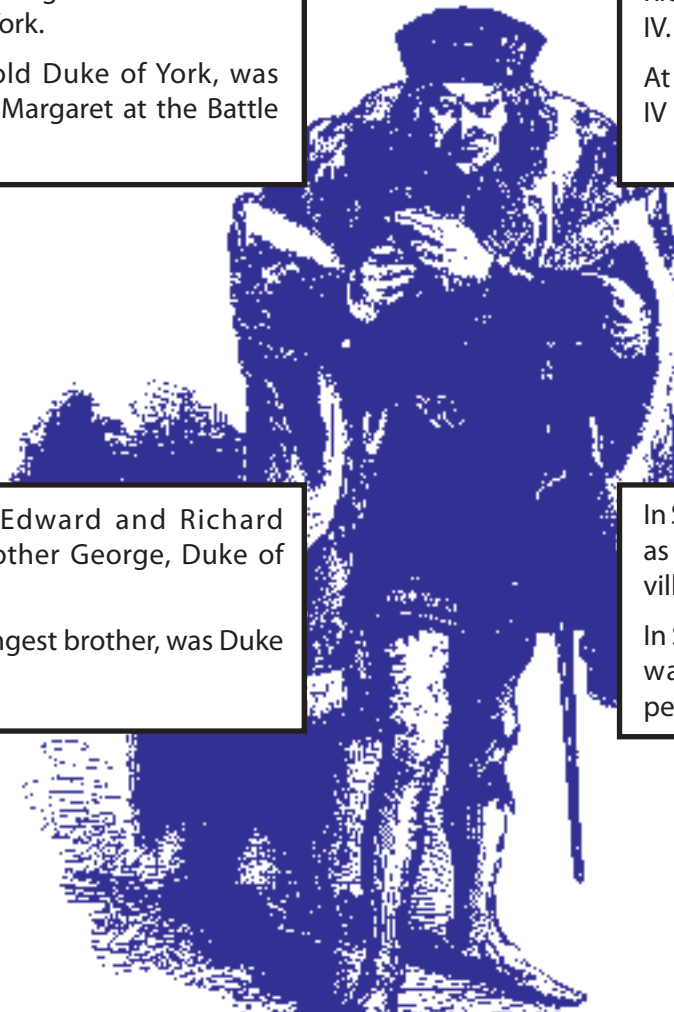
Richard Duke of Gloucester Later King Richard III of England

Richard was the youngest son of the Duke and Duchess of York.

His father, the old Duke of York, was killed by Queen Margaret at the Battle of Wakefield.

Richard's eldest brother was King Edward IV.

At the beginning of the play King Edward IV is still alive.



Between King Edward and Richard was another brother George, Duke of Clarence.

Richard, the youngest brother, was Duke of Gloucester.

In Shakespeare's play Richard is portrayed as a deformed hunchback. He is also a villain.

In Shakespeare's time physical deformity was often seen as a sign of an evil personality.

In the play Richard is often referred to as a hog or 'the boar'.

This was because his emblem or badge was a boar.

After Stanley warns Hastings to escape the court, Hastings replies, "To fly the boar before the boar pursues / Were to incense the boar"



Questions

1. Who were Richard's parents?
2. What happened to Richard's father?
3. Who was Richard's eldest brother?
4. What was Richard's title at the beginning of the play?
5. What was his brother George's title?
6. What was Richard's emblem or badge?
7. How does Shakespeare portray Richard physically?



THE PLAY BEGINS



1 Now is the winter of our discontent
 Made glorious summer by this son of York,
 And all the clouds that loured upon our house
 In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.

5 Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths,
 Our bruised arms hung up for monuments,
 Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings,
 Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.
 Grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front,

10 And now, instead of mounting barbèd steeds
 To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,
 He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber
 To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.
 But I that am not shaped for sportive tricks

15 Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass,
 I that am rudely stamped and want love's majesty
 To strut before a wanton ambling nymph,
 I that am curtailed of this fair proportion,
 Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,

20 Deformed, unfinished, sent before my time
 Into this breathing world scarce half made up,
 And that so lamely and unfashionable
 That dogs bark at me as I halt by them,
 Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace,

25 Have no delight to pass away the time,
 Unless to see my shadow in the sun
 And descant on mine own deformity.
 And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover
 To entertain these fair well-spoken days,
 To set my brother Clarence and the king

30 I am determinèd to prove a villain
 And hate the idle pleasures of these days.
 Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous,
 By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams
 To set my brother Clarence and the king

35 In deadly hate the one against the other.
 And if King Edward be as true and just
 As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,
 This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up
 About a prophecy which says that 'G'

40 Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.
 Dive, thoughts, down to my soul, here Clarence comes.

l. 2 this son of York - King Edward IV

l. 3 our house - the House of York

In lines 5 - 9 Richard says that now the war is over grim military matters have been replaced by peace-time rejoicing. They have the wreaths of victors on their heads instead of helmets. Their battle scarred armour is hung up as decoration. Instead of confrontation on the battlefield they now have "merry meetings" and military marches have given way to delightful dancing.

l. 9 Grim-visaged war is a personification, but also refers to King Edward IV.

l. 12 Edward "capers nimbly" - Edward IV had a reputation as a sensual ladies' man.

ll. 14-27 Richard reflects at length about his physical deformity. Richard *claims* that his physical ugliness is the *reason* for his villainous intentions but this is probably self-delusion. For Shakespeare's audience Richard's outward deformities are indications of the ugliness within - his vicious character.

ll. 28-41 Richard declares his intentions. Since he cannot, like his brother Edward IV, entertain himself with women, he will be a villain. The first part of his evil plan involves his brother George Duke of Clarence, whose death he is already planning.

Questions

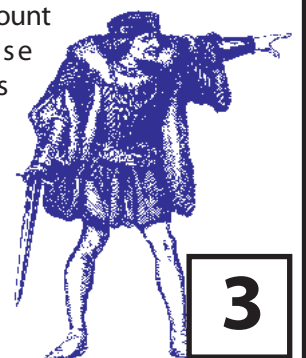
1. Explain each of the following phrases:

- (a) "this son of York"
- (b) "Our bruised arms"
- (c) "delightful measures"
- (d) "He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber"
- (e) "I that am rudely stamped"
- (f) "This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up"

2. This opening soliloquy falls into three parts: the war is over and Edward's court is celebrating; Richard' physical deformity; Richard's murderous intentions.

Write a detailed account of each of these stages in Richard's soliloquy.

3. What is Richard's opinion of his brother, Edward IV? What does he have to say about him?





The downfall of Hastings



Act Three Scene 4

The council has met to consider arrangements for the coronation of Prince Edward. The Bishop of Ely proposes the following day for the coronation. Buckingham asks who is likely to know Richard's feelings about this. Hastings claims to know and love Richard and is willing to speak for him.

At this point Richard arrives. Richard delays matters by asking the Bishop of Ely to send for fresh strawberries from his garden.

Richard uses this delay as an opportunity to tell Buckingham that Hastings will never consent to Richard becoming king.

Richard leaves the council chamber briefly with Buckingham. When he returns his mood has changed. He is no longer cheerful and light-hearted.

Richard says that "Edward's wife, that monstrous witch", and Jane Shore (King Edward IV and Hastings' mistress) have bewitched him. He holds up his withered arm and accuses them of causing it.



Hastings begins to say, "If they have done this deed, my noble lord -". This is enough for Richard. He seizes on the word "if" - "Talk'st thou to me of ifs?". He calls Hastings a traitor and condemns him to death.

Too late Hastings realises his stupidity in trusting Richard. He is taken out to be executed.

Comments

1. In the previous scene Rivers, Grey and Vaughan remembered Margaret's curses as they were taken to be beheaded. In this scene Hastings is in the same position. As Ratcliffe hurries him to his death he says, "O Margaret, Margaret, now thy heavy curse / Is lighted on poor Hastings' wretched head".
2. This whole scene is a perfect example of Richard's skill at manipulating people and events. Helped by Buckingham he leads Hastings into the trap and within minutes orders his death. There is a gruesome brutality about his insistence that he won't have dinner until he sees Hastings' severed head.
3. As in the previous scene Ratcliffe is brutal in his carrying out of the execution. He interrupts Hastings' final words with, "Come, come, dispatch: the Duke would be at dinner".
4. Richard cares nothing for the truth. He claims that his withered arm has been caused by the sorcery of Queen Elizabeth and Jane Shore, but he knows, and everyone else knows, that he has been deformed from birth.

Questions

1. Why does everyone keep quiet when Richard says that Queen Elizabeth and Jane Shore have bewitched him and caused his arm to wither?
2. Why does Richard ask the Bishop of Ely to send for fresh strawberries for him?
3. Write about the way Richard manipulates Hastings in this scene.



Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond



Richmond's father was Edmund Tudor, a Welsh prince, who died shortly before Richmond was born.

His mother was Margaret Beaufort, a member of the House of Lancaster. Richmond's claim to the throne of England was through his mother.

As a supporter of the House of Lancaster, Richmond spent many years, with other prominent Lancastrians, exiled in France.

They were waiting for an opportunity to return to England and take back the throne from the Yorkists.

Shakespeare tells us that King Henry VI prophesied that Richmond would one day be king of England. In Act Four Scene Two Richard says, "I do remember me, Henry the Sixth / Did prophesy that Richmond should be king, / When Richmond was a little peevish boy".

Richmond appears as the complete opposite of Richard. He is portrayed as a good man, a man of peace, come to rid England of the bloody tyrant, Richard III, "The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar".

He greets his followers as friends. He claims that God is on their side.

Richmond respects and trusts his supporters, unlike Richard who spies on his supporters and threatens them.

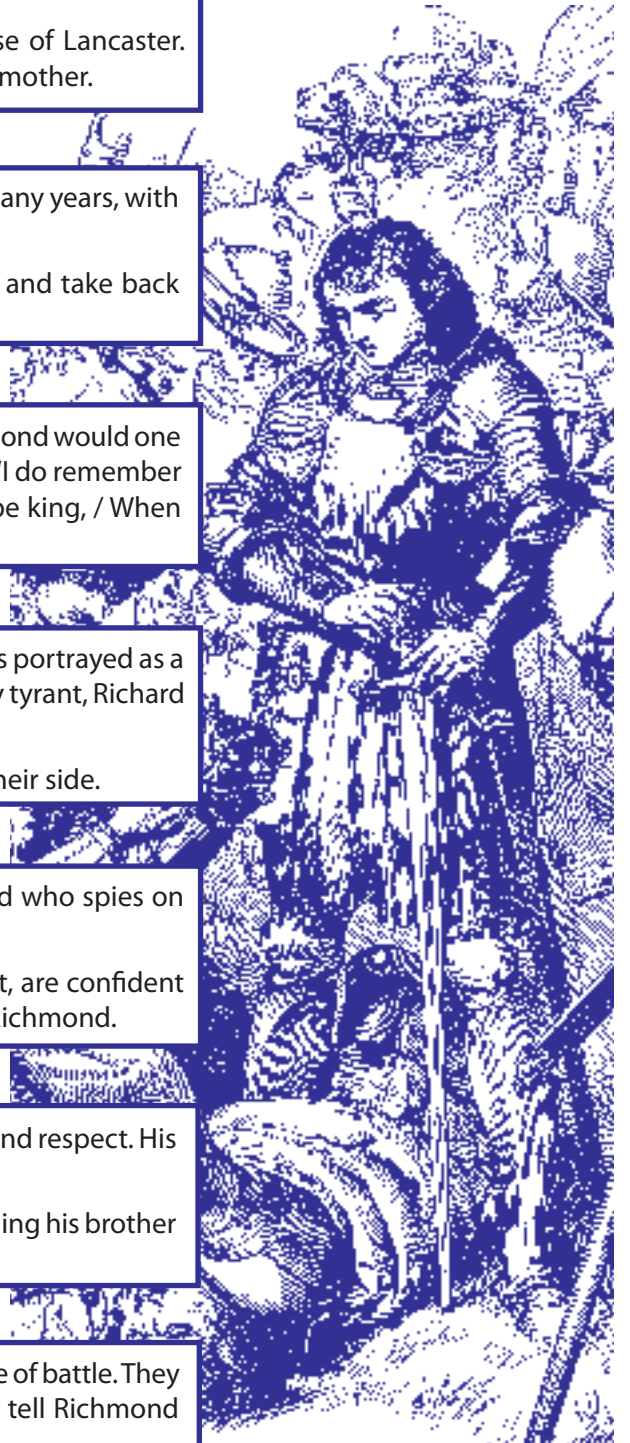
Richmond's powerful supporters, Oxford, Herbert and Blunt, are confident that Richard's supporters will turn against him and turn to Richmond.

Richmond greets his step-father Lord Stanley with affection and respect. His mother sends her blessing and prays for him.

This contrasts with Richard who is cursed by his mother for killing his brother Clarence and his young nephews, the Princes in the Tower.

The ghosts of Richard's victims appear to Richmond on the eve of battle. They give Richmond comfort and hope for the coming day. They tell Richmond "live and flourish".

The same ghosts appear to Richard and tell him "despair and die".



Questions

1. Write as much as you can about Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond.
Who is he? Why does he oppose Richard III?
How does the character of Richmond differ from that of Richard III?
What happens at the battle of Bosworth? How does the play end?
Give examples and use short quotations to illustrate your answer.