

3/17/2011



LITERATURE IN
ENGLISH

REVIEW NOTES FOR RICHARD III



Generation's School
Literature in English Grade XI

Important Quotes from the Play for Textual Evidence

Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York.
Richard III, 1. 1

Grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front;
And now, instead of mounting barbed steeds
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,
He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.
Richard III, 1. 1

But I, that am not shaped for sportive tricks,
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,
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.
Richard III, 1. 1

This weak piping time of peace.
Richard III, 1. 1

And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover,
To entertain these fair well-spoken days,
I am determined to prove a villain
And hate the idle pleasures of these days.
Richard III, 1. 1

No beast so fierce but knows some touch of pity.
Richard III, 1. 2

Was ever woman in this humour wooed?
Was ever woman in this humour won?
Richard III, 1. 2

Cannot a plain man live and think no harm,
But thus his simple truth must be abused
By silken, sly, insinuating Jacks?
Richard III, 1. 3

Since every Jack became a gentleman
There's many a gentle person made a Jack.
Richard III, 1. 3

And thus I clothe my naked villainy
With old odd ends stolen out of holy writ,

And seem a saint when most I play the devil.
Richard III. 1. 3

Methought I saw a thousand fearful wrecks,
Ten thousand men that fishes gnawed upon,
Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearl,
Inestimable stones, unvalued jewels,
All scattered in the bottom of the sea:
Some lay in dead men's skulls; and in those holes
Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept,
As 't were in scorn of eyes, reflecting gems,
That wooed the slimy bottom of the deep,
And mocked the dead bones that lay scattered by.
Richard III, 1. 4

Clarence is come, - false fleeting, perjured Clarence.
Richard III, 1. 4

Woe to the land that's governed by a child.
Richard III. 2. 3

So wise so young, they say, do never live long.
Richard III, 3. 1

Talk'st thou to me of 'ifs'? Thou art a traitor:
Off with his head!
Richard III, 3. 4

I am not in the giving vein to-day.
Richard III. 4. 2

The sons of Edward sleep in Abraham's bosom.
Richard III, 4. 3

Thou cam'st on earth to make the earth my hell.
Richard III, 4. 4

An honest tale speeds best, being plainly told.
Richard III, 4. 4

Harp not on that string.
Richard III. 4. 4

True hope is swift, and flies with swallow's wings;
Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings.
Richard III, 5. 2

The king's name is a tower of strength.
Richard III, 5. 3

Give me another horse: bind up my wounds.
Richard III. 5. 3

O coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me!
Richard III, 5. 3

My conscience hath a thousand several tongues,
And every tongue brings in a several tale,
And every tale condemns me for a villain.
Richard III, 5. 3

I shall despair. There is no creature loves me;
And if I die, no soul will pity me:
Nay, wherefore should they, since that I myself
Find in myself no pity to myself?
Richard III. 5. 3

By the apostle Paul, shadows to-night
Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard
Than can the substance of ten thousand soldiers.
Richard III, 5. 3

Conscience is but a word that cowards use,
Devised at first to keep the strong in awe.
Richard III, 5. 3

I have set my life upon a cast,
And I will stand the hazard of the die.
Richard III, 5. 4

A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!
Richard III. 5. 4

Theme Specific Quotes

Manipulation Quotes

1. GLOUCESTER.
Even so; an't please your worship, Brakenbury,
You may partake of any thing we say:
We speak no treason, man; we say the King
Is wise and virtuous, and his noble queen
Well struck in years, fair, and not jealous;
We say that Shore's wife hath a pretty foot,
A cherry lip, a bonny eye, a passing pleasing tongue;
And that the Queen's kindred are made gentlefolks.
How say you, sir? Can you deny all this? (1.1.88)
2. GLOUCESTER
Well, your imprisonment shall not be long;
I will deliver or else lie for you. (1.1.114)
3. GLOUCESTER
Is not the causer of the timeless deaths
Of these Plantagenets, Henry and Edward,
As blameful as the executioner?
ANNE

Thou wast the cause and most accurs'd effect.

GLOUCESTER

Your beauty was the cause of that effect-

Your beauty that did haunt me in my sleep

To undertake the death of all the world

So I might live one hour in your sweet bosom. (1.2.117)

4. GLOUCESTER

If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive,

Lo here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword;

Which if thou please to hide in this true breast

And let the soul forth that adoreth thee,

I lay it naked to the deadly stroke,

And humbly beg the death upon my knee.

[He lays his breast open; she offers at it with his sword] (1.2.173)

5. GLOUCESTER

I do the wrong, and first begin to brawl.

The secret mischiefs that I set abroad

I lay unto the grievous charge of others.

Clarence, who I indeed have cast in darkness,

I do beweepe to many simple gulls;

Namely, to Derby, Hastings, Buckingham;

And tell them 'tis the Queen and her allies

That stir the King against the Duke my brother.

Now they believe it, and withal whet me

To be reveng'd on Rivers, Dorset, Grey;

But then I sigh and, with a piece of Scripture,

Tell them that God bids us do good for evil.

And thus I clothe my naked villainy

With odd old ends stol'n forth of holy writ,

And seem a saint when most I play the devil. (1.3.323)

6. GLOUCESTER

But he, poor man, by your first order died,

And that a winged Mercury did bear;

Some tardy cripple bare the countermand

That came too lag to see him buried.

God grant that some, less noble and less loyal,

Nearer in bloody thoughts, and not in blood,

Deserve not worse than wretched Clarence did,

And yet go current from suspicion! (2.1.88)

7. GLOUCESTER. This is the fruits of rashness. Mark'd you not

How that the guilty kindred of the Queen

Look'd pale when they did hear of Clarence' death?

O, they did urge it still unto the King!

God will revenge it. Come, lords, will you go
To comfort Edward with our company? (2.1.135)

8. BUCKINGHAM

You are too senseless-obstinate, my lord,
Too ceremonious and traditional.
Weigh it but with the grossness of this age,
You break not sanctuary in seizing him.
The benefit thereof is always granted
To those whose dealings have deserv'd the place
And those who have the wit to claim the place.
This Prince hath neither claim'd it nor deserv'd it,
And therefore, in mine opinion, cannot have it.
Then, taking him from thence that is not there,
You break no privilege nor charter there.
Oft have I heard of sanctuary men;
But sanctuary children never till now. (3.1.44)

9. GLOUCESTER. I say, without characters, fame lives long.

[Aside] Thus, like the formal vice, Iniquity,
I moralize two meanings in one word. (3.1.82)

10. HASTINGS. O momentary grace of mortal men,

Which we more hunt for than the grace of God!
Who builds his hope in air of your good looks
Lives like a drunken sailor on a mast,
Ready with every nod to tumble down
Into the fatal bowels of the deep. (3.4.96)

11. BUCKINGHAM

We live to tell it-that the subtle traitor
This day had plotted, in the council-house,
To murder me and my good Lord of Gloucester.

MAYOR. Had he done so?

GLOUCESTER

What! think you we are Turks or Infidels?
Or that we would, against the form of law,
Proceed thus rashly in the villain's death
But that the extreme peril of the case,
The peace of England and our persons' safety,
Enforc'd us to this execution?

MAYOR

Now, fair befall you! He deserv'd his death;
And your good Graces both have well proceeded
To warn false traitors from the like attempts.
I never look'd for better at his hands
After he once fell in with Mistress Shore. (3.5.37)

12. BUCKINGHAM

Yet know, whe'er you accept our suit or no,
Your brother's son shall never reign our king;
But we will plant some other in the throne
To the disgrace and downfall of your house;
And in this resolution here we leave you.
Come, citizens. Zounds, I'll entreat no more.
GLOUCESTER. O, do not swear, my lord of Buckingham.
Exeunt BUCKINGHAM, MAYOR, and citizens
CATESBY. Call him again, sweet Prince, accept their suit.
If you deny them, all the land will rue it.
GLOUCESTER. Will you enforce me to a world of cares?
Call them again. I am not made of stones,
But penetrable to your kind entreaties,
Albeit against my conscience and my soul. (3.7.214)

13. QUEEN ELIZABETH

Shall I go win my daughter to thy will?
KING RICHARD
And be a happy mother by the deed.
QUEEN ELIZABETH
I go. Write to me very shortly,
And you shall understand from me her mind.
KING RICHARD
Bear her my true love's kiss; and so, farewell.
Kissing her. Exit QUEEN ELIZABETH
Relenting fool, and shallow, changing woman! (4.4.426)

Justice Quotes

1. GLOUCESTER Alack, my lord, that fault is none of yours: (1.1.47)
2. GLOUCESTER
How hath your lordship brook'd imprisonment?
HASTINGS
With patience, noble lord, as prisoners must;
But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks
That were the cause of my imprisonment. (1.1.125)
3. GLOUCESTER
But yet I run before my horse to market. (1.1.160)
4. KING EDWARD
The proudest of you all
Have been beholding to him in his life;

Yet none of you would once beg for his life.
O God, I fear thy justice will take hold
On me, and you, and mine, and yours, for this!
Come, Hastings, help me to my closet. Ah, poor Clarence! (2.1.129)

5. GREY

Now Margaret's curse is fall'n upon our heads,
When she exclaim'd on Hastings, you, and I,
For standing by when Richard stabb'd her son.

RIVERS

Then curs'd she Richard, then curs'd she
Buckingham,
Then curs'd she Hastings. O, remember, God,
To hear her prayer for them, as now for us!
And for my sister, and her princely sons,
Be satisfied, dear God, with our true blood,
Which, as thou know'st, unjustly must be spilt. (3.3.14)

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7. KING RICHARD

Look what is done cannot be now amended.
Men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes,
Which after-hours gives leisure to repent.
If I did take the kingdom from your sons,
To make amends I'll give it to your daughter.
If I have kill'd the issue of your womb,
To quicken your increase I will beget
Mine issue of your blood upon your daughter. (4.4.291)

8. QUEEN MARGARET

Bear with me; I am hungry for revenge,
And now I cloy me with beholding it.
Thy Edward he is dead, that kill'd my Edward;
The other Edward dead, to quit my Edward;
Young York he is but boot, because both they

Match'd not the high perfection of my loss.
Thy Clarence he is dead that stabb'd my Edward;
And the beholders of this frantic play,
Th' adulterate Hastings, Rivers, Vaughan, Grey,
Untimely smother'd in their dusky graves.
Richard yet lives, hell's black intelligencer;
Only reserv'd their factor to buy souls
And send them thither. But at hand, at hand,
Ensues his piteous and unpitied end.
Earth gapes, hell burns, fiends roar, saints pray,
To have him suddenly convey'd from hence.
Cancel his bond of life, dear God, I pray,
That I may live and say 'The dog is dead.' (4.4.61)

9. KING RICHARD

Stanley, what news with you?

STANLEY

None good, my liege, to please you with
the hearing;

Nor none so bad but well may be reported.

KING RICHARD

Hoyday, a riddle! neither good nor bad! (4.4.456)

10. BUCKINGHAM

This, this All-Souls' day to my fearful soul
Is the determin'd respite of my wrongs;
That high All-Seer which I dallied with
Hath turn'd my feigned prayer on my head
And given in earnest what I begg'd in jest.
Thus doth He force the swords of wicked men
To turn their own points in their masters' bosoms.
Thus Margaret's curse falls heavy on my neck.
'When he' quoth she 'shall split thy heart with sorrow,
Remember Margaret was a prophetess.'
Come lead me, officers, to the block of shame;
Wrong hath but wrong, and blame the due of blame. (5.1.18)

11. RICHMOND

O Thou, whose captain I account myself,
Look on my forces with a gracious eye;
Put in their hands Thy bruising irons of wrath,
That they may crush down with a heavy fall
The usurping helmets of our adversaries!
Make us Thy ministers of chastisement,
That we may praise Thee in the victory!
To Thee I do commend my watchful soul

Ere I let fall the windows of mine eyes.
Sleeping and waking, O, defend me still! (5.3.108)

12. RICHMOND

A base foul stone, made precious by the foil
Of England's chair, where he is falsely set;
One that hath ever been God's enemy.
Then if you fight against God's enemy,
God will in justice ward you as his soldiers;
If you do sweat to put a tyrant down,
You sleep in peace, the tyrant being slain;
If you do fight against your country's foes,
Your country's foes shall pay your pains the hire;
If you do fight in safeguard of your wives,
Your wives shall welcome home the conquerors;
If you do free your children from the sword,
Your children's children quits it in your age.
Then, in the name of God and all these rights,
Advance your standards, draw your willing swords. (5.3.250)

13. GHOST OF BUCKINGHAM. [To RICHARD]

The first was I that help'd
thee to the crown;
The last was I that felt thy tyranny.
O, in the battle think on Buckingham,
And die in terror of thy guiltiness!
Dream on, dream on of bloody deeds and death;
Fainting, despair; despairing, yield thy breath!
[To RICHMOND] I died for hope ere I could lend thee aid;
But cheer thy heart and be thou not dismay'd:
God and good angels fight on Richmond's side;
And Richard falls in height of all his pride. (5.3.167)

14. KING RICHARD

What says Lord Stanley? Will he bring his power?

MESSENGER

My lord, he doth deny to come.

KING RICHARD

Off with his son George's head!

NORFOLK

My lord, the enemy is pass'd the marsh.

After the battle let George Stanley die. (5.3.342)

Power Quotes

1. GLOUCESTER Why, this it is when men are rul'd by women: (1.1.62)

2. GLOUCESTER

Which done, God take King Edward to his mercy,
And leave the world for me to bustle in! (1.1.151)

3. ANNE

O God, which this blood mad'st, revenge his death!
O earth, which this blood drink'st, revenge his death!
Either, heav'n, with lightning strike the murd'rer dead;
Or, earth, gape open wide and eat him quick,
As thou dost swallow up this good king's blood,
Which his hell-govern'd arm hath butchered. (1.2.62)

4. SECOND CITIZEN

Truly, the hearts of men are full of fear.
You cannot reason almost with a man
That looks not heavily and full of dread.

THIRD CITIZEN

Before the days of change, still is it so;
By a divine instinct men's minds mistrust
Ensuing danger; as by proof we see
The water swell before a boist'rous storm.
But leave it all to God. (2.3.38)

5. BUCKINGHAM

Now, my lord, what shall we do if we
perceive
Lord Hastings will not yield to our complots?

GLOUCESTER

Chop off his head! (3.1.191)

6. SCRIVENER

Here's a good world the while! Who is so gross
That cannot see this palpable device?
Yet who's so bold but says he sees it not?
Bad is the world; and all will come to nought,
When such ill dealing must be seen in thought. (3.6.10)

7. BUCKINGHAM

No, so God help me, they spake not a word;
But, like dumb statues or breathing stones,
Star'd each on other, and look'd deadly pale.
Which when I saw, I reprehended them,
And ask'd the Mayor what meant this wilfull silence.
His answer was, the people were not used

To be spoke to but by the Recorder.
Then he was urg'd to tell my tale again.
'Thus saith the Duke, thus hath the Duke inferr'd'-
But nothing spoke in warrant from himself.
When he had done, some followers of mine own
At lower end of the hall hurl'd up their caps,
And some ten voices cried 'God save King Richard!'
And thus I took the vantage of those few- (3.7.24)

8. GLOUCESTER

Cousin of Buckingham, and sage grave men,
Since you will buckle fortune on my back,
To bear her burden, whe'er I will or no,
I must have patience to endure the load;
But if black scandal or foul-fac'd reproach
Attend the sequel of your imposition,
Your mere enforcement shall acquittance me
From all the impure blots and stains thereof;
For God doth know, and you may partly see,
How far I am from the desire of this. (3.7.227)

9. KING RICHARD

I must be married to my brother's daughter,
Or else my kingdom stands on brittle glass.
Murder her brothers, and then marry her!
Uncertain way of gain! But I am in
So far in blood that sin will pluck on sin.
Tear-falling pity dwells not in this eye. (4.2.60)

10. QUEEN ELIZABETH

My words are dull; O, quicken them
with thine!

QUEEN MARGARET

Thy woes will make them sharp and
pierce like mine. Exit

DUCHESS

Why should calamity be fun of words?

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Windy attorneys to their client woes,
Airy succeeders of intestate joys,
Poor breathing orators of miseries,
Let them have scope; though what they will impart
Help nothing else, yet do they case the heart.

DUCHESS

If so, then be not tongue-tied. Go with me,
And in the breath of bitter words let's smother

My damned son that thy two sweet sons smother'd.
The trumpet sounds; be copious in exclams. (4.4.124)

11. KING RICHARD

Ratcliff, come hither. Post to Salisbury;
When thou com'st thither- [To CATESBY] Dull,
unmindfull villain,
Why stay'st thou here, and go'st not to the Duke?

CATESBY

First, mighty liege, tell me your Highness' pleasure,
What from your Grace I shall deliver to him.

KING RICHARD

O, true, good Catesby. (4.4.444)

Betrayal Quotes

1. GLOUCESTER Simple, plain Clarence, I do love thee so That I will shortly send thy soul to heaven, If heaven will take the present at our hands. (1.1.118)

2. GLOUCESTER

Poor Clarence did forsake his father, Warwick,
Ay, and forswore himself-which Jesu pardon!-
[...] To fight on Edward's party for the crown;
And for his meed, poor lord, he is mew'd up.
I would to God my heart were flint like Edward's,
Or Edward's soft and pitiful like mine.
I am too childish-foolish for this world. (1.3.134)

3. GLOUCESTER

Vouchsafe to wear this ring.

ANNE

To take is not to give. [Puts on the ring] (1.2.201)

4. MESSENGER

The sum of all I can, I have disclos'd.
Why or for what the nobles were committed
Is all unknown to me, my gracious lord.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Ay me, I see the ruin of my house!
The tiger now hath seiz'd the gentle hind;
Insulting tyranny begins to jet
Upon the innocent and aweless throne.
Welcome, destruction, blood, and massacre!
I see, as in a map, the end of all. (2.4.46)

5. CATESBY

And thereupon he sends you this good news,
That this same very day your enemies,

The kindred of the Queen, must die at Pomfret.

HASTINGS

Indeed, I am no mourner for that news,
Because they have been still my adversaries;
But that I'll give my voice on Richard's side
To bar my master's heirs in true descent,
God knows I will not do it to the death. (3.2.51)

6. GLOUCESTER

Come, cousin, canst thou quake and change
thy colour,
Murder thy breath in middle of a word,
And then again begin, and stop again,
As if thou were distraught and mad with terror?

BUCKINGHAM

Tut, I can counterfeit the deep tragedian;
Speak and look back, and pry on every side,
Tremble and start at wagging of a straw,
Intending deep suspicion. Ghastly looks
Are at my service, like enforced smiles;
And both are ready in their offices
At any time to grace my stratagems. (3.5.1)

7. GLOUCESTER

So dear I lov'd the man that I must weep.
I took him for the plainest harmless creature
That breath'd upon the earth a Christian;
Made him my book, wherein my soul recorded
The history of all her secret thoughts.
So smooth he daub'd his vice with show of virtue
That, his apparent open guilt omitted,
I mean his conversation with Shore's wife-
He liv'd from all attainder of suspects. (3.5.24)

8. BUCKINGHAM

And is it thus? Repays he my deep service
With such contempt? Made I him King for this?
O, let me think on Hastings, and be gone
To Brecknock while my fearful head is on! (4.2.119)

9. STANLEY

Most mighty sovereign,
You have no cause to hold my friendship doubtful.
I never was nor never will be false.

KING RICHARD

Go, then, and muster men. But leave behind
Your son, George Stanley. Look your heart be firm,

Or else his head's assurance is but frail.

STANLEY

So deal with him as I prove true to you. (4.4.491)

10. KING RICHARD

O coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me! (5.3.179)

Conscience is but a word that cowards use,

Devis'd at first to keep the strong in awe. (5.3.309)

11. Cold fearful drops stand on my trembling flesh.

What do I fear? Myself? There's none else by.

Richard loves Richard; that is, I am I.

Is there a murderer here? No-yes, I am.

Then fly. What, from myself? Great reason why-

Lest I revenge. What, myself upon myself!

Alack, I love myself. Wherefore? For any good

That I myself have done unto myself?

O, no! Alas, I rather hate myself

For hateful deeds committed by myself!

I am a villain; yet I lie, I am not.

Fool, of thyself speak well. Fool, do not flatter. (5.3.181)

Women and Femininity Quotes

1. GLOUCESTER Why, this it is when men are rul'd by women: 'Tis not the King that sends you to the Tower; My Lady Grey his wife, Clarence, 'tis she That tempers him to this extremity. (1.1.62)

2. GLOUCESTER

He that doth naught with her, excepting one,

Were best to do it secretly alone.

BRAKENBURY

What one, my lord?

GLOUCESTER

Her husband, knave! Wouldst thou betray me? (1.1.99)

3. GLOUCESTER

For then I'll marry Warwick's youngest daughter.

What though I kill'd her husband and her father?

The readiest way to make the wench amends

Is to become her husband and her father;

The which will I-not all so much for love

As for another secret close intent

By marrying her which I must reach unto. (1.1.153)

4. ANNE

Be it lawful that I invoke thy ghost

To hear the lamentations of poor Anne,

Wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughtered son,
Stabb'd by the self-same hand that made these wounds.
Lo, in these windows that let forth thy life
I pour the helpless balm of my poor eyes. (1.2.8)

5. ANNE

O wonderful, when devils tell the truth!

GLOUCESTER

More wonderful when angels are so angry. (1.2.73)

6. ANNE

I would I knew thy heart.

GLOUCESTER

'Tis figur'd in my tongue.

ANNE

I fear me both are false.

GLOUCESTER

Then never was man true. (1.2.192)

7. GLOUCESTER

Then be your eyes the witness of their evil.

Look how I am bewitch'd; behold, mine arm

Is like a blasted sapling wither'd up.

And this is Edward's wife, that monstrous witch,

Consorted with that harlot strumpet Shore,

That by their witchcraft thus have marked me.

HASTINGS

If they have done this deed, my noble lord-

GLOUCESTER

If?-thou protector of this damned strumpet,

Talk'st thou to me of ifs? Thou art a traitor.

Off with his head! (3.4.67)

8. DUCHESS

O ill-dispersing wind of misery!

O my accursed womb, the bed of death!

A cockatrice hast thou hatch'd to the world,

Whose unavowed eye is murderous.

STANLEY

Come, madam, come; I in all haste was sent.

ANNE

And I with all unwillingness will go.

O, would to God that the inclusive verge

Of golden metal that must round my brow

Were red-hot steel, to sear me to the brains!

Anointed let me be with deadly venom,

And die ere men can say 'God save the Queen!'

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Go, go, poor soul; I envy not thy glory.

To feed my humour, wish thyself no harm. (4.1.52)

9. KING RICHARD

Who intercepts me in my expedition?

DUCHESS

O, she that might have intercepted thee,

By strangling thee in her accursed womb,

From all the slaughters, wretch, that thou hast done! (4.4.136)

10. KING RICHARD

You have a daughter call'd Elizabeth.

Virtuous and fair, royal and gracious.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

And must she die for this? O, let her

live,

And I'll corrupt her manners, stain her beauty,

Slander myself as false to Edward's bed,

Throw over her the veil of infamy;

So she may live unscarr'd of bleeding slaughter,

I will confess she was not Edward's daughter.

KING RICHARD

Wrong not her birth; she is a royal

Princess.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

To save her life I'll say she is not so. (4.4.204)

11. QUEEN ELIZABETH

I go. Write to me very shortly,

And you shall understand from me her mind.

KING RICHARD

Bear her my true love's kiss; and so, farewell.

Kissing her. Exit QUEEN ELIZABETH

Relenting fool, and shallow, changing woman! (4.4.430)