

William Shakespeare's
Richard III

Level 4



Evil Plans



Richard asks Clarence, "What is the reason you are being taken prisoner?"

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentence under the picture.
 4. Read the first six paragraphs of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that _____ sat on the throne.

- a. Richard
- b. Clarence
- c. George
- d. Edward IV

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find about Richard's plans for his brothers.

Turning On the Charm

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Preview Answer:
c. the House of York.

Choose the best answer.

1. Whose body lay inside the casket?
 - a. King Edward IV's
 - b. King Henry VI's
 - c. The Duke of Gloucester's
 - d. Richard III's

2. The War of the Roses was a war between the House of Lancaster and
 - a. the House of York.
 - b. the House of York.
 - c. the House of York.
 - d. the House of O'Rourke.

3. The dead man was Lady Anne's
 - a. uncle.
 - b. father.
 - c. father-in-law.
 - d. brother.

4. Lady Anne cursed
 - a. the one who killed her husband, and father-in-law.
 - b. her husband, for making her a widow.
 - c. Margaret, for telling lies about Richard.
 - d. the day she was born.

5. Before Richard told Lady Anne the truth, she suspected (thought to be so) that Richard
 - a. would make a good husband for the right woman.
 - b. was the one who killed her husband, and father-in-law.
 - c. would make a great king.
 - d. was not as evil as most people thought.

6. Who does Richard blame for causing him to do evil?
 - a. Lady Anne
 - b. Clarence
 - c. Henry VI
 - d. Margaret, the King's widow.

7. When did Lady Anne spit in Richard's face?
 - a. When he ordered the guards to set down the casket
 - b. When he blamed Margaret for his terrible deeds
 - c. When he told her he had killed her husband
 - d. When he pressed a ring onto her finger

8. Richard
 - a. was not in love with Lady Anne.
 - b. loved Lady Anne with all his heart.
 - c. thought Lady Anne was the most beautiful woman in the world.
 - d. thought Lady Anne was in love with him.

9. Another name for this story could be
 - a. "The Death of King Henry VI."
 - b. "Setting a Trap With Smooth Words."
 - c. "Richard's Mistake."
 - d. "Sweet Dreams."

10. This story is mainly about
 - a. Richard trying to win the hand of Lady Anne.
 - b. blessings and curses.
 - c. the War of the Roses.
 - d. Richard's charm.

Check your answers with the Key on page 67.

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A Warning for Hastings

The Prince and his brother were in the Tower, out of Richard's way. Now Richard, Buckingham, and Catesby had a better chance to further their evil plan. They needed all those who had power, to cooperate to help pronounce Richard the new king.

"We must bring Lord Hastings to our same mind," said Buckingham. "This will be rough."

"I agree," Sir Catesby said. "Hastings loves King Edward's boys. He had a great respect for the King."

"What about Lord Stanley?" asked Buckingham. "Can he be trusted to cooperate? Or will he deliver us into the hands of our enemy?"

Catesby smiled. "He will do just what Hastings will do. If we can get Hastings to agree with us, Stanley will follow."

"Go, then," said Buckingham, "and get Hastings. Tell him to come to the crowning of young Prince Edward."

After Catesby had gone, Buckingham and Richard talked further about their plan to pronounce Richard King. "What will we do if Hastings decides not to cooperate?" Buckingham asked.

"I'll chop off his head!" exclaimed Richard. "And when I am King, I will give you honors and put you in charge of some land."

"I will remember your promise," replied Buckingham.

Meanwhile, someone appeared at Lord Hastings' house in the middle of the night. He banged on Hastings' door.

"Who is there?" Hastings called.

"I have a word from Lord Stanley," came the answer.

"Can't one have a good night's sleep around here?" said Hastings, opening the door in a rough manner. "Well, then, tell

me the word from Lord Stanley."

"He delivers a warning, my lord. He dreamed that Richard was your enemy. He turned on both you and Stanley, just as he turned on Lord Rivers and Lord Grey. They will soon be put to death. Stanley says you must ride north with him to be safe."

But Hastings didn't listen to the warning. He was in a trusting mood and wouldn't believe that Richard was a traitor. If there was danger, wouldn't his good friend Catesby let him know?

Shortly after Stanley's man left Hastings' house, Sir Catesby arrived.

"What word do you bring, Catesby, in these early morning hours? How are things going in our shaky kingdom?"

"The kingdom is shaky indeed," answered Catesby. "I believe the troubles will not go away until Richard is pronounced King. He will set everything right."

"What!" exclaimed Hastings, with great surprise. "I do not believe Richard's fit to wear the crown. Do you really think he *wants* to become King?"

"Oh, yes," replied Catesby, "and he hopes you will join those who are helping him to get the crown. He also sends you this good word. On this same day, your enemies, relatives of the Queen, will be put to death."

Hastings shook his head. It was all right with him if the Queen's relatives were put to death. They had been his bitter enemies for a long time. But to help Richard become ruler of the kingdom, that was a different story. The *Prince* should become King, even if his mother *is* from the House of Lancaster.

"God knows I will not do it," said Hastings. "Even if I am put to death." He did not know that by saying this, he was signing

away his own life. Neither did he know that Catesby was a traitor who would quickly carry his words back to Richard.

The next day the council met at the Tower. They were making plans to crown Prince Edward of Wales. Lord Hastings and Lord Stanley were there. Richard, in a good mood, was there as well.

Richard and Buckingham left the council room. Richard wanted a word with Buckingham. When they finally went back to the council room, Richard's jolly mood was gone. He looked straight at Hastings. "What do they deserve who wish for my death?" he asked. "What shall we do with those who have planned against me? What do they deserve who caused my hump and my useless arm?"

Hastings was quick to answer. "My lord, they deserve death."

Richard's face became red with rage. "Then your eyes can see how the Queen has used her evil powers to make me like this!" He turned to show his hump, then threw out his useless arm. "And you, Hastings, have protected such people, so you are a traitor!" He turned to the guards. "Take him, guards, and off with his head!"

Hastings was in shock. He knew he was as good as dead. Later, they brought Hastings' head to Richard. He looked at it with sad eyes. "So dear I loved the man," he lied.

When it was learned what had happened to Hastings, not a word was said. No one dared to say anything against Richard. They feared for their own lives.