

Henry VI: Rebellion and Wars of the Roses in 10 parts

1. King Henry marries the French Princess Margaret creating a peace between the two countries. However, the marriage causes friction in the English court. The Duke of Gloucester, the Lord Protector in charge of the country until the King comes of age, is angry about the match as it means losing more territories in France.

2. The other English Nobles, led by Winchester and Suffolk, plot together to get rid of the Duke of Gloucester, who is very popular with the people and the King. His wife Eleanor wants to be queen and consults a conjuror about her ambitions. However, it is a trap and Eleanor is arrested, brought to trial and banished.

3. Gloucester resigns, allowing Henry to become king in his own right. The Duke of York and others use this opportunity to lay blame on Gloucester and arrest him for treason. Suffolk, Margaret, York and the Bishop of Winchester agree that Gloucester should be murdered to cut off his connection to the King.

4. Suffolk arranges the murder of Gloucester but when his death is announced to the King, Warwick and Salisbury enter and report a commons' revolt, accusing Suffolk and Winchester of the murder. The King banishes Suffolk and Winchester dies from guilt. On his journey to France Suffolk's ship is invaded by pirates and they murder him.

5. Keen to make his own claim to the throne, York encourages a Kentish rebel, Jack Cade, to revolt in London in the hope of causing a riot and seeing how the public respond to his claim to the throne. Cade whips up a storm in London and the King, now without his uncle Gloucester, struggles under pressure. Once the rebels are quelled the news arrives that York has gathered an army against the King.

6. York starts his campaign to take the crown from Henry, supported by his sons Edward, Richard and George, as well as Salisbury and Warwick. The two sides take up arms, with Henry supported by Margaret, Somerset, Buckingham and the Cliffords. For the first time, the armies of Lancaster and York face each other at the battle of St Albans. Having won the battle of St Albans, the Duke of York, Richard Plantagenet, sits on the throne of England.

7. To his wife's dismay, King Henry agrees to York's demand that he disinherit his son, Edward, Prince of Wales. Margaret abandons Henry and vows to destroy York. She enlists the support of Clifford and others to raise an army. Margaret's forces take York's army by surprise at their castle in Wakefield, and York's youngest son, Rutland, is killed by Clifford. York is then captured by Clifford and Buckingham, taunted with details of Rutland's death, and brutally murdered.

8. York's sons: Edward, Richard and George are told of their father's murder and unite with Warwick, who proclaims Edward the new Duke of York. They raise an army and defeat the Lancastrians at Towton. Henry, Margaret and their son are forced to flee north, and Clifford is killed.

9. Henry is captured and brought to London, where he is placed in the Tower by the new King Edward. In France, Margaret and Warwick meet at the court of King Louis. News reaches them that Edward has married Lady Elizabeth Grey, in spite of his agreement to marry Louis' sister, Lady Bona. This insult turns Warwick against Edward. Warwick pledges support to Margaret, releasing Henry from the Tower and restoring him as King of England. Furious with his brother, George leaves Edward and joins with Warwick.

10. The forces of Edward and Warwick meet at Barnet, where Warwick is killed and Clarence returns to his family. Margaret arrives in England with reinforcements. Her forces encounter Edward's for the last time at Tewkesbury, where, after much bloodshed, the Yorkists are victorious. Richard meets Henry in the tower and kills him and begins to plot his own route to take the crown for himself.