

### **Activity 1B Resource – Richard III in Ten Parts**

1. Three months have passed since the Wars of the Roses between the rival Houses of Lancaster and York. The victorious Yorkists have been enjoying this time of peace under the newly-crowned Edward IV.
2. But Edward's younger brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, has other ideas, wanting the throne for himself. To further his plans, he manipulates the noblewoman Lady Anne Neville to marry him, even though she knows that he murdered her first husband.
3. As Edward IV's health fails, his queen, Elizabeth, and Richard argue. Henry VI's widow, Queen Margaret, curses them all for their disloyalty to her dead husband and warns the Duke of Buckingham not to trust Richard.
4. Having had his brother George, Duke of Clarence, imprisoned in the Tower, Richard arranges his murder. Edward blames himself for the death and dies shortly after. Edward leaves behind him two young sons, not old enough to rule. Richard is appointed Lord Protector of England, putting him in charge until the boys grow up.
5. Richard, now with much more power, and authority, grows concerned with the resistance other members of court might have. He intercepts Queen Elizabeth's brother; Lord Rivers, and eldest son: Lord Grey on their way to meet the princes outside of London, and orders their execution. He also creates a false accusation of treason, towards Edward's good friend and powerful noblemen Lord Hastings, also ordering his execution to protect his authority.
6. Richard meets the young princes, and tells them that they should stay in the Tower of London. Queen Elizabeth is barred from seeing her sons. Buckingham spreads rumours that the princes are not true heirs because they are illegitimate. The people of London believing the claims of illegitimacy seek out Richard to persuade him to become king.
7. Richard is crowned, but finds himself concerned at the threat Edward's sons still hold a threat to his reign. He asks Buckingham if he will kill them, but Buckingham's reservations splinter their alliance, and Buckingham flees to raise an army to bring down Richard. A man who lives beyond his means, called Tyrrell, is sent by Richard to murder them in the Tower instead. Their bodies are secretly buried, so they won't be found.
8. To strengthen his claim to the throne, Richard arranges to have his wife Anne murdered so he can marry King Edward's daughter, Princess Elizabeth. As the people of England become increasingly fearful of Richard, Buckingham is captured, and is executed.
9. Meanwhile, Richard's plans begin to unravel. Queen Elizabeth secretly agrees to marry her daughter to the Lancastrian Earl of Richmond, who has raised forces in France. He arrives in England to challenge Richard for the throne on Bosworth Field.
10. The night before the battle, the ghosts of the people Richard has had murdered appear to him in a dream, cursing him and praying for Richmond's success. After fighting bravely, Richard is killed in battle by Richmond, who becomes King Henry VII. His marriage to Princess Elizabeth promises a new era of peace for England, uniting the Houses of York and Lancaster.