**The Life and Death of King Richard III – WHOOSH**

**Location:** The Royal Court of King Edward IV, London (Buckingham Palace without glass in the windows, no heating other than open fire and not much else to do but plot battles or worry about who is plotting against you…)

*There has been years of civil unrest between the 2 royal Houses as each family has fought to claim their right to the throne (a little like the battle between Collingwood and Essendon if they ever got to a Grand Final together, or Slytherin and Gryffindor in a Quidditch match). The House of Lancaster was defeated when King Henry VI was killed in a battle and Edward IV, from the House of York is now the undisputed King, much to the displeasure of the Lancaster supporters.*

**Battle, Victory of Yorks, Defeat of Lancasters, crowning of King Edward. Tableau.**

**Add to Family Portrait Tableau**

*Edward’s mother, the Duchess of York was especially pleased as she now had greater status over the ex-queen, Queen Margaret (widow of Henry VI). QM was allowed to stay on in the royal court, probably not from kindness for her change in circumstances, but to rub salt into the wounds of her husband’s defeat. In those days if the King said you must be in the confines of the royal court, you stayed there. You couldn’t leave without his permission. (Like not being allowed to leave the school grounds)*

*Edward also had 2 brothers, George (who now had the grand title of the Duke of Clarence and was perfectly happy with everything) and Richard (the Duke of Gloucester, who was not happy, but was good at pretending to be. He actually wanted to be King.)*

***Freeze Tableau. Photo Opportunity 1***

Now is the winter of our discontent

Made glorious by the sun of York

*WHOOSH*

*In fact, Richard was so over his brother Edward getting everything – he got the looks, the body, the perfect wife, aswell as any other women he looked sideways at… the crown, the Kingdom, the best bedroom, everyone at his beck and call and Mother was always going on and on and on about Edward….*

*No-one really took much notice of Richard. True he was a Duke with a bit of status around the court, he was the King’s brother after all, so no-one was ever going to give him grief. Well not to his face anyway. But all of his life Richard had been aware of the whispers behind his back, the comments on his ‘rudely stamp’d’ features, his lack of ‘love’s majesty’. While Edward was cavorting and capering nimbly in some lady’s bedchamber, to the lascivious pleasing of a lute, Richard knew he was not likely to have a woman swoon over his ‘deform’d, unfinish’d’ features. He had been:*

*(Richard) : ‘sent before my time into this breathing world, scarce half made up, so lamely and*

*unfashionable that dogs bark at me as I halt by them.’*

*So, Richard plans to get the crown for himself. And he was ready to use any means to get it, however villainous, wicked and foul…..*

**Photo Opportunity 2**

Since I cannot prove a lover,

To entertain these fair well-spoken days, -

I am determined to prove myself a villain

*WHOOSH*

*Richard knew a king should have a well-born wife. He decided to woo Anne, widow of the son of the previous King. Since Richard himself had actually killed her husband and her father –in –law (King Henry), Anne was disgusted when he came to woo her at the funeral.*

**Photo Opportunity 3**

Anne: Out of my sight!

Thou dost infect my eyes.

Richard: Thine eyes, sweet lady, have infected mine.

Vouchsafe to wear this ring.

*But the wiley Richard talked so cleverly, he won her round and celebrates by having his brother killed in the Tower of London.*

*WHOOSH*

*To get closer to the crown, Richard needed to get rid of his older brother, the popular Duke of Clarence. He had already persuaded (tricked) the King to imprison Clarence as a traitor in the dreaded Tower. He then hired a pair of assassins to murder Clarence in his cell. The unsuspecting Clarence trusted Richard to get his release, but learns of Richard’s evil plan too late…*

**Photo Opportunity 4**

Murderer 1: Take him over the custard with the hilts of thy sword, and then throw him into the malmsey-butt

Clarence: I will send you to my brother Gloucester: he loves me, and holds me dear

Murderer: You are deceiv’d, your brother hates you

*WHOOSH*

*King Edward died. His widow, Queen Elizabeth was aware of Richard’s ambition, so she sent for her brothers to bring her son, the Prince of Wales and heir to the throne, back to London for his coronation. Richard, as the boy’s uncle, had been made ‘Lord Protector’ of the realm by the King, so that in the event of the King’s death, Richard would be entrusted with the prince’s care. (Not the Queen, the child’s mother – she was only a woman…) Richard, with the help of his sly friend, the Duke of Buckingham, imprisoned the Queen’s brothers and in his new role as Lord Protector, has Edward’s heirs, the 2 young princes, confined in the Tower, for their safe-keeping and to await the coronation. He then proves Queen Elizabeth’s fears right when he orders the execution of her brothers. The Duke of Buckingham becomes Richard’s chief advisor when Richard promises him an earldom as a reward for his help and together they mastermind and manipulate Richard’s accession to the throne.*

**Photo Opportunity 5**

Richard: When I am king, claim thou of me

The Earldom of Hereford

Buckingham: I’ll claim that promise at your grace’s hand.

*Hastings, the Lord Chamberlain (another important cog in the hierarchy of power, also a man), starts to guess Richard’s plans, so Richard falsely accuses Queen Elizabeth of witchcraft.*

**Photo Opportunity 6**

Richard: 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 marked me.

*He knew Hastings would never sign her death warrant, so when Hastings casts doubt on his accusation he declared Hastings a traitor and had him beheaded.*

*Richard: If! Thou protectorof this damned strumpet,*

*Talks to me of ifs? – Thou art a traitor:-*

*Off with his head*

*Next, Buckingham spread rumours that the royal princes had actually been born out of wedlock. Edward was well known for his dalliances (that’s just what Kings did, it was part of the job description), but the average citizen still wanted to know their king was not a bastard (born before the legal marriage date).*

**Photo Opportunity 7**

A beauty-waning and distressed widow

Made prize and purchase of his wanton eye,

By her, in his unlawful bed, he got

This Edward, whom our manners call – the prince.

*Soon the people began to call for the Lord Protector, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, to be king.*

*The villain had succeeded! He was crowned King Richard III of England.*

*But, he did not feel safe while the princes still lived.*

**Photo Opportunity 8**

Richard: Ha! Am I King? ‘Tis so: but….I wish the bastards dead.

*Richard asks Buckingham to do the deed, but Buckingham refuses - and loses his earldom and everything else he was promised.*

**Photo Opportunity 9**

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 begone….while my

Fearful head is on.

*Richard finds another killer to get rid of the kids. Fearing for his safety Buckingham flees to join the last Lancastrian heir, Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who is leading an army from France against King Richard.*

*By this stage, Queen Margaret and Queen Elizabeth are totally over Richard, but the only person they can complain to his Richard’s mother, who was not overly impressed with her son’s actions either.*

**Photo Opportunity 10**

From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept

A hell-hound, that doth hunt us all to death

That I should wish for thee to help me curse

That bottled spider, that foul bunch’d –back toad.

*Richard believed he could only be secure if he got rid of his current wife Anne (so he gets her to die without having to lift a finger) and married the dead princes’ sister, Elizabeth. When he suggests this to the girl’s mother ( mother to the 2 boys he had murdered), Queen Elizabeth, she was not that keen on the idea.*

**Photo Opportunity 11**

Queen Elizabeth: My tongue should to thy ears not name my boys,

Till that my nails were anchor’d in thin eyes

*But Richard coolly replies:*

Richard: Look, what is done cannot be now amended;

Men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes

*He believed he had convinced Elizabeth that it would be in her daughter’s best interests to agree to marry the King of England.*

Relenting fool, and shallow changing – woman!

*Richard would rather that than have her marry the King of France – her bloodline as Edward’s daughter and only (remaining) child would strengthen his hold on the crown.*

*Richard knew he had to fight Richmond or lose the crown. So he rallied his army and set off for battle.*

*The night before the battle began, both King Richard and Richmond dreamed of Richard’s victims. One by one, the ghosts wished Richard ill and the earl well.*

**Photo Opportunity 12**

One by one, the ghosts wished Richard ill and the earl well.

*Use picture from Bravo Mr William Shakespeare, p 18.*

*Location: Bosworth Field.*

*The day dawned sunless and cold. Soon the field was loud with the noise of battle. Richard’s side suffered heavy losses. Then his own horse was slain from underneath him.*

A horse! A horse!

My kingdom for a horse!

*But he fought on bravely until he met Richmond face to face, sword to sword. The tired, haunted, desperate, angry hunchback was no match for the valiant earl.With one victorious stroke Richmond slew him.*

**Photo Opportunity 13**

The day is ours, the bloody dog is dead!

*Richard III’s short and bloody reign was over and Henry Tudor was crowned King Henry VII of England. Henry married the young Elizabeth, uniting her house, the House of York and his House of Lancaster, to bring peace to England.*