

Richard III

William Shakespeare

How does Richard turn a public moment of peace into a private justification for villainy?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Act I, Scene I - Richard's opening soliloquy

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Now is the winter of our discontent
END	I am determined to prove a villain
PASSAGE ID	sec-richard3-01

THE MOVE

Trace how a speaker converts circumstance into self-justification

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Richard first describes a society moving from war to celebration, then positions himself as unable or unwilling to participate in its pleasures. The logic of the soliloquy turns personal grievance into a declared choice to become a villain, revealing justification and decision as separate things.

MARK

Underline images showing war turning into peace or pleasure. Circle Richard's repeated descriptions of himself. Box the line where description becomes a declared intention.

NOTICE

- What has changed for everyone after the war?
- How does Richard describe his relationship to the new peacetime world?
- Does his self-description force him to become a villain, or does he choose that conclusion?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Richard turn a public moment of peace into a private justification for villainy? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

Richard converts public peace into private grievance by contrasting the celebrations around him with his own sense of exclusion. He describes his body and social position as reasons he cannot share the pleasures of peace, then turns those reasons into a chosen identity when he declares himself determined to prove a villain.

EVIDENCE

Use one image of postwar celebration, one self-description, and the line announcing his decision.

WATCH FOR

Do not accept Richard's reasoning as objective fact. Distinguish what he describes from the choice he makes with those descriptions.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE · GRADE 12 · LESSON 320

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WORK	Richard III
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TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Act I, Scene I - Richard's opening soliloquy
PASSAGE ID	sec-richard3-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Now is the winter of our discontent

END

I am determined to prove a villain READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline images showing war turning into peace or pleasure. Circle Richard's repeated descriptions of himself. Box the line where description becomes a declared intention.
2. NOTICE What has changed for everyone after the war? How does Richard describe his relationship to the new peacetime world? Does his self-description force him to become a villain, or does he choose that conclusion?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does Richard turn a public moment of peace into a private justification for villainy?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.