

Spotlight Guide 2018 - 2019

Richard II

by William Shakespeare



I wasted time, and now doth time waste me. Convinced of his divine right to rule, King Richard II never expected to be undone by his own maladroit mortal wrongs. By brashly putting his own vanity before the needs of his kingdom, he creates the perfect opening for Henry Bolingbroke to seize the throne. Shakespeare's deeply moving and insightful retelling reveals how one man's bumbling mistakes can shape a nation's political landscape and change the course of history.

Orlando Shakes' production of Richard II is part of Shakespeare in American Communities, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Lesson Plan and Activities

Page to Stage Lesson Plan

In this lesson, students will read and analyze an excerpt from Act I, Scene 1 of William Shakespeare's *Richard II* using the included handouts.

Shakespeare Taboo

Students will gain a new appreciation for Shakespeare's contribution to the English language.

Paraphrasing

Students unlock Shakespeare's text by rewording of the meaning of the lines into their vernacular.

Write a Review

After seeing the production, have each student write a review of Orlando Shakes' production of *Richard II*

Discussion & Themes

Which character do you think Shakespeare admires more, the gentle, artistic King Richard or the practical, calculating Bolingbroke? Why? Which do you admire more? Why?

King Richard rules at a time when it was believed a king had a God given right to rule which could not be denied. What are the dangers of such a political system? What might be the advantages?

What causes Richard's downfall? Is it his own fault, the fault of others or just chance? Explain your answer.

Florida Standards

LAFS.910.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details
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LAFS.1112.SL.1: Comprehension and Collaboration
LAFS.910.W.1: Text Types and Purposes
LAFS.1112.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details
LAFS.910.RL.3: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
TH.912.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts
TH.68.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.



PG-13

Elizabethan curse words, drugs are referenced, stage violence and death using swords

Most appropriate for Grade 8 and up. Children under 5 will not be admitted to the theater.