Year 7 Homework Project

**Why are there different interpretations of Richard III?**



**Introduction**

This is your second homework project in Year 7. For this you have to analyse why there are different views and interpretations of Richard III. In particular you need to think about how the time in which a person lived would have affected their view of a past event or person.

By the end of this project you should be able to:

1. Describe key aspects of Richard III life and character.
2. Explain different views and interpretations of Richard III
3. Analyse why people had particular interpretations of Richard III at different times.

To achieve this you need to complete the tasks that follow.

We have provided information to help you complete each task but there are lots of books in the Learning Resource Centre on castles that you could also use.

**AO4: To explore historical interpretations**

Richard was the eleventh child of the Duke of York and Cecily Neville. He was born in 1942. There was lots of war going on. His older brother was Edward IV. He was a Yorkist. Richard was very loyal to his older brother and very brave on the battlefield. He helped win famous victories like Tewkesbury in 1471.

When Edward IV died in 1483. He had a son called Edward who was only 12. Richard became Protector of England until Prince Edward was old enough to become King.

Edward IV’s wife, Elizabeth Woodville, didn’t trust Richard to rule so she called for a Regency Council to run the Country. Richard didn’t like this and persuaded Parliament that his brother Edward IV and Elizabeth’s marriage wasn’t legal. So that meant their son Prince Edward couldn’t become King. Richard became King because he was the only brother left alive. Richard had Prince Edward and his younger brother put into prison. People started to say that Richard had the 2 boys murdered.

Richard’s enemy was led by the Lancastrian Henry Tudor. He came to fight Richard in England with 5000 men. As soon as Richard heard about it, he marched his army to meet Henry Tudor.

The Earl of Northumberland brought 3000 soldiers, but his loyalty to Richard was in doubt. Richard ordered two of the most powerful men in England to bring their 6000 soldiers and fight for him. They were Lord Thomas Stanley and Sir William Stanley. But Lord Stanley had already said he would help Henry Tudor. This made Richard angry and to persuade Lord Stanley to fight for him, he had Lord Stanley’s oldest son to be kidnapped.

On 21 August 1485, King Richard’s army got ready to fight on Ambien Hill, close to the small village called Bosworth. Henry arrived and faced Richard. When the Stanley brothers arrived they didn’t stand with Richard or Henry. This meant Richard would probably lose so Richard had Lord Stanley’s son brought to the top of the hill and said the son would die if Stanley and his troops didn’t fight with the King. Lord Stanley’s reply was “Lord I have other sons” Henry now attacked. At first Richard was winning but because he had less men he soon began to lose. He called the Earl of Northumberland and his troops to help. But Northumberland ignored the King.

Richard was told by his advisers he should escape, but Richard refused. He put on his crown and charged down the hill. He was supported by a small group of guards, but was knocked off his horse before he got to Henry. He continued to fight until he was killed.

Lord Stanley had the honour of crowning Henry VII the new King of England. Henry founded the Tudor dynasty that would last 100 years.

**Task 1**

**What is your interpretation (view) of Richard III?**

Complete the following tasks…

* Read through the story of Richard III and below highlight things that you think make him a good man in one colour and those that make him bad in another.
* Explain your overall view of Richard III was he a hero or villain? Why?

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| Richard helped win famous victories. | Knew what he wanted and how to get it |
| Very loyal to his brother | Richard had his nephews murdered |
| Brave on the battlefield | Richard had Stanley’s son kidnapped |
| Determined and intelligent | Richard fought until he was killed |
| Helped drown his brother for betraying the family |  |

Good Bad

My view on Richard is he is a man. I think this because ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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On the other hand some people might think of him as a man, because

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**Task 2**

In this task you going to find to think about how and why people choose to interpret events in a particular way.

Imagine you are William Shakespeare. You have been ask By Elizabeth I, a Tudor monarch, and descendent of Henry VII to write a play about Henry VII defeating Richard III.

What aspects of the story will you include and how will you portray Richard III to make the play exciting and to please Elizabeth?

Match the picture to the explanation.

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| Richard III killing his own brother by drowning him in a vat of wine. |
| Portraying Richard III as a weak King with a deformed back who was mad.. |
| The murder of the Princes in the Tower by order of Richard III. |
| Richard III being defeated at Bosworth By Henry VII. |

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| **Shows he was a bad man and murderer.** |
| **Shows he wasn’t loyal to his family.** |
| **Shows Elizabeth was a better ruler than him and he was weak.** |
| **Elizabeth would like to see him being killed.** |

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| **Task 3**  *Recently the skeleton of Richard III was found in Leicester. Studies show that he would have been a strong and capable warrior despite his deformed back. Information has also been found to suggest that Henry VII’s mother may have arranged for the murder of the Princes in the Tower in order to make Richard III look bad and to get them out of the way so her son Henry VII could become King. This has led some historians to review the history of Richard III and interpret his reign and life in a more positive light.*  Using what you have learnt about Richard III and historical interpretations answer the following question:  *“****Why are there different interpretations of Richard III?***  In your answer you should try explain why there are different views of Richard III (see Task 1). Why Shakespeare interpreted him in a negative way (Task 2) and why Richard III has been seen more favourably in recent years.  **Sentence starters**  *Richard III has been interpreted in different ways because there are both positive and negative things about him. For example…*  *Shakespeare portrayed him badly because …*  *On the other hand more recent historians have portrayed him in a good way because…* |

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