

Richard, Duke of Gloucester's opening soliloquy

ACT I. SCENE 1.

*London. A street*

*Enter RICHARD, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, solus*

GLOUCESTER. Now is the winter of our discontent  
Made glorious summer by this sun of York;  
And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house  
In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.  
Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths;  
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments;  
Our stern alarums chang'd to merry meetings,  
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.  
Grim-visag'd war hath smooth'd his wrinkled front,  
And now, instead of mounting barbed steeds  
To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,  
He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber  
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.  
But I-that am not shap'd for sportive tricks,  
Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass-  
I-that am rudely stamp'd, and want love's majesty  
To strut before a wanton ambling nymph-  
I-that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,  
Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,  
Deform'd, unfinish'd, sent before my time  
Into this breathing world scarce half made up,  
And that so lamely and unfashionable  
That dogs bark at me as I halt by them-  
Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace,  
Have no delight to pass away the time,  
Unless to spy my shadow in the sun  
And descant on mine own deformity.  
And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover  
To entertain these fair well-spoken days,  
I am determin'd to prove a villain  
And hate the idle pleasures of these days.  
Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous,  
By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,  
To set my brother Clarence and the King  
In deadly hate the one against the other;  
And if King Edward be as true and just  
As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,  
This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up-  
About a prophecy which says that G  
Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.  
Dive, thoughts, down to my soul. Here Clarence comes.

Choose one of the following based on Richard's opening soliloquy and work with a partner to complete the task.

### Task 1

Produce an advert for the House of York which shows what has changed and how much better things are now peace can be enjoyed under the new regime ruled by Edward.

### Task 2

Produce a series of five images taken from home video clips of Richard's childhood and private life. Each image should show Richard and other people's attitudes towards him according to what he describes.

### Task 3

Produce a series of five images taken from a spy surveillance camera which shows what Richard has done so far to forward his plans, and what might happen to Clarence because of Richard's plotting.

