

RICHARD III

SYMBOLISM, IMAGERY, ALLEGORY



THE WHITE BOAR

Richard's heraldic symbol
(on his coat of arms)

Thou elvish-marked, abortive, rooting hog,
Thou that wast sealed in thy nativity
The slave of nature and the son of hell.
(Act 1, scene 3)

GHOSTS

Richard receives a
visit from ghosts whom
he has murdered

It is now dead midnight.
Cold fearful drops stand
on my trembling flesh.
What do I fear? Myself?
(Act 5, scene 5)



THE TUDOR MYTH

According to the Tudors, King
Richard III's reign was one of
the darkest periods in English
history, until Henry VII
brought peace in England.

Now civil wounds are stopp'd, peace lives again:
That she may long live here, God say amen!
(Act 5, scene 8)

RICHARD'S DEFORMITY

Richard wasn't actually a
"hunchback" but was perhaps
born prematurely, before he
could fully develop

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
(Act 1, scene 1)

