RICHARD III
SYMBOLISM, IMAGERY, ALLEGORY

THE WHITE BOAR
Richard’s heraldic symbol for 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 2)

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 worst periods in English
history. It was believed that

Richard’s deformity
Richard wasn’t actually a
“knock-kneed” 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 I spy my shadow in the sun
And descant on mine own deformity
(Act 1, scene 1)