

Manipulation in Shakespeare's Richard III**Student Worksheet****Warmer – what is manipulation?**

1. Choose the correct definition of the word 'manipulate'.

- a. encourage somebody to do what you think is best for them
- b. make another person do what want to do using physical force
- c. influence someone to do something, usually in a dishonest way



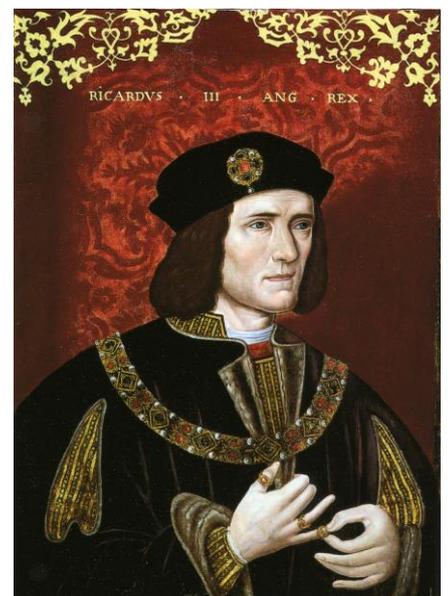
2. Read the situations with your partner. Are they examples of manipulation?

- a. A politician doesn't tell the public the truth so they will vote for him. He knows he can help more people if he has more power.
- b. A wife who tells her husband that he looks fat. She hopes he will lose weight and become healthier.
- c. A teacher who tells her students that they are not doing very well at studying in the hope that will work harder.
- d. A writer who creates a play that is full of lies about a king. He wants to make the dead king look like a devil and new king and queen look better.

Task 1 – listening: the plot of Richard III

Listen to the recording of two students talking about the plot of Shakespeare's play Richard III. Put the events of the plot into the right order.

- a. Richard kills two boys.
- b. He kills his brother.
- c. His elder brother, the king, dies.
- d. Richard marries a rich woman.
- e. Richard wants to become king.
- f. Richard kills his wife.
- g. Richard dies in battle.
- h. Richard has a terrible dream.



Richard III

Task 2 – vocabulary

a. Match these words with their definitions.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. discontent | a. with creases in the skin |
| 2. dreadful | b. unhappy |
| 3. glorious | c. the opposite of smile |
| 4. fearful | d. very serious and without pleasure |
| 5. wrinkled | e. wonderful and beautiful |
| 6. grim | f. happy because you won |
| 7. frown | g. very bad |
| 8. victorious | h. afraid |

b. Use some of the words to make sentences about the pictures



Task 3 – Richard III’s opening speech

Read this modern version of a very famous speech from Richard III.

RICHARD	Now is the winter of our discontent	1
	Made glorious summer by my brother ¹	2
	And all the clouds that hung above our house	3
	In the deep waters of the ocean buried.	4
	Grim-faced war has lost his wrinkled frown;	5
	And now, instead of riding fighting horses	6
	To frighten the souls of fearful enemies,	7
	He walks cleverly in a lady’s bedroom	8
	To the sound of soft music.	9
	But I, that am not shaped for sporting tricks,	10
	Nor made to look beautiful in the mirror;	11
	I, that am shaped badly and want love	12
	To stand before pretty girls;	13
	I, that have been robbed of this fair shape,	14
	Cheated of beauty by cruel nature,	15
	Deformed, unfinished, sent before my time	16
	Into this breathing world, not half made up,	17
	And that so horrible and unfashionable	18
	That dogs bark at me as I walk by them—	19
	Why, I, in this weak time of peace,	20
	Have no delight to pass away the time,	21
	Unless to see my shadow in the sun	22
	And think of my own deformity	23

¹ Richard’s brother Edward is the king.

Task 4 – reading for detail

Answers these questions about Richard III's speech.

1. How do you know people are happy?^a
2. How do you know the war is over?
3. What do you think Richard looks like? How do you know?
4. What kind of a man do you think Richard is? Why?
5. What does 'the winter of out discontent' mean? Why would Richard say it?

Task 5 – discussion

Talk about these questions with a partner.

1. In what ways are people manipulated by the media?
2. How are students manipulated by their teachers?
3. What do you think is the best way to manipulate someone? Offer them something? Lie to them? Flatter them? Or something else?
4. Do you think it's natural for people to manipulate each other to get what they want? Why?
5. Who manipulates you and how? Do you mind?



SPECIAL OFFER

^a For help with the questions, look in the following lines:

Question 1 – line 3

Question 2 – line 6

Question 3 – line 10-11; 14-18; 18; 23

Question 4 – line 23