



**The Grammar Dog Guide to
The Tragedy of
Richard III
by William Shakespeare**

**All quizzes use sentences from the play.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 1	--	Parts of Speech <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 5
Exercise 2	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation <i>12 multiple choice questions</i> 7
Exercise 3	--	Proofreading: Spelling, Capitalization, Punctuation <i>12 multiple choice questions</i> 8
Exercise 4	--	Simple, Compound, and Complex Sentences <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 9
Exercise 5	--	Complements <i>20 multiple choice questions on direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions</i> 11
Exercise 6	--	Phrases <i>20 multiple choice questions on prepositional, appositive, gerund, infinitive, and participial phrases</i> 13
Exercise 7	--	Verbals: Gerunds, Infinitives, and Participles <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 15
Exercise 8	--	Clauses <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exercise 9 --	Style: Figurative Language <i>20 multiple choice questions on metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole</i> 19
Exercise 10 --	Style: Poetic Devices <i>20 multiple choice questions on assonance, consonance, alliteration, repetition, and rhyme</i> 21
Exercise 11 --	Style: Sensory Imagery <i>20 multiple choice questions</i> 23
Exercise 12 --	Style: Allusions and Symbols <i>20 multiple choice questions on allusions to history, religion, mythology, animal imagery, and folklore/superstition</i> 25
Exercise 13 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 1 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 27
Exercise 14 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 2 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 29
Exercise 15 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 3 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 31
Exercise 16 --	Style: Literary Analysis – Selected Passage 4 <i>6 multiple choice questions</i> 33
Answer Key --	Answers to Exercises 1-16 35
Glossary --	Grammar Terms 37
Glossary --	Literary Terms 47

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF RICHARD III by William Shakespeare

EXERCISE 5 COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

d.o. = direct object

i.o. = indirect object

p.n. = predicate nominative

o.p. = object of preposition

p.a. = predicate adjective

ACT I

- ___1. **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.**
- ___2. **The jealous o'erworn widow and herself, since that our brother dubbed them gentlewomen, are mighty gossips in our monarchy.**
- ___3. **Well, your imprisonment shall not be long; I will deliver you, or else lie for you.**

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

par = participial *ger* = gerund *inf* = infinitive *appos* = appositive *prep* = prepositional

ACT I

- ___1. **But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks that were the cause of my imprisonment.**
- ___2. **Thou bloodless remnant of that royal blood, be it lawful that I invoke thy ghost to hear the lamentations of poor Anne, wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughtered son, stabbed by the selfsame hand that made these wounds!**
- ___3. **But first I'll turn yon fellow in his grave, and then return lamenting to my love.**

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

p = personification

s = simile

m = metaphor

h = hyperbole

ACT I

- ___1. **... when thy warlike father, like a child, told the sad story of my father's death and twenty times made pause to sob and weep, that all the standers-by had wet their cheeks like trees bedashed with rain.**

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- ___2. I would to God my heart were flint, like Edward's, or Edward's soft and pitiful, like mine.
- ___3. The worm of conscience still begnaw thy soul!

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the allusions and symbols in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. history b. mythology c. religion d. animal imagery e. folklore/superstition

ACT I

- ___1. More pity that the eagles should be mewed, whiles kites and buzzards prey at liberty.
- ___2. What black magician conjures up this fiend to stop devoted charitable deeds?
- ___3. Why strew'st thou sugar on that bottled spider, whose deadly web ensnareth thee about?

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Richard. Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York,
And all the clouds that loured 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 changed to merry meetings,
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.
Grim-visaged War hath smoothed 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 shaped for sportive tricks,
Nor made to court an amorous looking glass;
I, that am rudely stamped, and want love's majesty
To strut before a wanton ambling nymph;
I, that am curtailed of this fair proportion,
Cheated of feature by dissembling Nature,
Deformed, unfinished, 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 see 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 determined 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 mewed 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.
(I, i, 1-41)

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF RICHARD III by William Shakespeare

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 <i>Richard.</i> Now is the winter of our discontent | 22 And that so lamely and unfashionable |
| 2 Made glorious summer by this sun of York, | 23 That dogs bark at me as I halt by them -- |
| 3 And all the clouds that lour'd upon our house | 24 Why, I, in this weak piping time of peace, |
| 4 In the deep bosom of the ocean buried. | 25 Have no delight to pass away the time, |
| 5 Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths. | 26 Unless to see my shadow in the sun |
| 6 Our bruised arms hung up for monuments, | 27 And descant on mine own deformity. |
| 7 Our stern alarums changed to merry meetings, | 28 And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover |
| 8 Our dreadful marches to delightful measures. | 29 To entertain these fair well-spoken days, |
| 9 Grim-visaged War hath smoothed his wrinkled front; | 30 I am determined to prove a villain |
| 10 And now, instead of mounting barbed steeds | 31 And hate the idle pleasures of these days. |
| 11 To fright the souls of fearful adversaries, | 32 Plots have I laid, inductions dangerous, |
| 12 He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber | 33 By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams, |
| 13 To the lascivious pleasing of a lute. | 34 To set my brother Clarence and the King |
| 14 But I, that am not shaped for sportive tricks, | 35 In deadly hate the one against the other; |
| 15 Nor made to court an amorous looking glass; | 36 And if King Edward be as true and just |
| 16 I, that am rudely stamped, and want love's majesty | 37 As I am subtle, false, and treacherous, |
| 17 To strut before a wanton ambling nymph; | 38 This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up |
| 18 I, that am curtailed of this fair proportion, | 39 About a prophecy, which says that G |
| 19 Cheated of feature by dissembling Nature, | 40 Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be. |
| 20 Deformed, unfinished, sent before my time | 41 Dive, thoughts, down to my soul; here Clarence comes. |
| 21 Into this breathing world scarce half made up, | |

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF RICHARD III by William Shakespeare

- ___1. Line 9 contains an example of . . .
a. metaphor b. simile c. personification d. hyperbole
- ___2. Line 5 contains ALL of the following devices EXCEPT . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___3. A shift takes place in Line . . .
a. 3 b. 15 c. 35. d. 41

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