

## Bitesize KS3 English Literature – Shakespeare

### Richard III – Character – Richard transcript

#### KING RICHARD

Give me another horse! Bind up my wounds!  
Have mercy, Jesu! Soft, I did but dream.  
O coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me?  
The lights burn blue. It is now dead midnight.  
Cold, fearful drops stand on my trembling flesh.  
What do I fear? Myself? There's none else by.  
Richard loves Richard, that is, I am I.  
Is there a murderer here? No. Yes, I am.  
Then fly. What, from myself? Great reason why:  
Lest I revenge. What, myself upon myself?  
Alack, I love myself. Wherefore? For any good  
That I myself have done unto myself?  
O, no. Alas, I rather hate myself  
For hateful deeds committed by myself.  
I am a villain. Yet I lie, I am not.  
Fool, of thyself speak well. Fool, do not flatter.  
My conscience hath a thousand several tongues,  
And every tongue brings in a several tale,  
And every tale condemns me for a villain.  
Perjury, perjury, in the highest degree,  
Murder, stern murder, in the direst degree,  
All several sins, all used in each degree,  
Throng to th'bar, crying all 'Guilty! guilty!'  
I shall despair. There is no creature loves me,  
And if I die no soul shall pity me.  
Nay, wherefore should they, since that I myself  
Find in myself no pity to myself?  
Methought the souls of all that I had murdered  
Came to my tent, and every one did threat  
Tomorrow's vengeance on the head of Richard.