Act 3 Scene 7 from Line 94 to end

Enter GLOUCESTER aloft, between two Bishops. CATESBY returns

Lord Mayor
See, where he stands between two clergy men!

BUCKINGHAM
Two props of virtue for a Christian prince,  
To stay him from the fall of vanity:  
And, see, a book of prayer in his hand,  
True ornaments to know a holy man.  
Famous Plantagenet, most gracious prince,  
Lend favourable ears to our request;  
And pardon us the interruption  
Of thy devotion and right Christian zeal.

GLOUCESTER
My lord, there needs no such apology:  
I rather do beseech you pardon me,  
Who, earnest in the service of my God,  
Neglect the visitation of my friends.  
But, leaving this, what is your grace's pleasure?

BUCKINGHAM
Even that, I hope, which pleaseth God above,  
And all good men of this ungovern'd isle.

GLOUCESTER
I do suspect I have done some offence  
That seems disgracious in the city's eyes,  
And that you come to reprehend my ignorance.

BUCKINGHAM
You have, my lord: would it might please your grace,  
At our entreaties, to amend that fault!

GLOUCESTER
Else wherefore breathe I in a Christian land?
5. Annotate the two lines that suggest Richard is refusing the crown.

6. Underline all the words and phrases that show how important being king is.

7. What does Buckingham mean when he calls Edward’s sons “blemished stock”?

8. Explain why they shouldn’t become king if they are “blemished stock.”

9. How else does Buckingham try to ’convince’ Richard to rule as king, not as lord protector?

10. Highlight all Richard’s words where he uses negative language to describe being king.

11. Why does Richard refuse the crown?
First if all obstacles were cut away,  
And that my path were even to the crown,  
As my ripe revenue and due by birth  
Yet so much is my poverty of spirit,  
So mighty and so many my defects,  
As I had rather hide me from my greatness,  
Being a bark to brook no mighty sea,  
Than in my greatness covet to be hid,  
And in the vapour of my glory smother'd.  
But, God be thank'd, there's no need of me,  
And much I need to help you, if need were;  
The royal tree hath left us royal fruit,  
Which, mellow'd by the stealing hours of time,  
Will well become the seat of majesty,  
And make, no doubt, us happy by his reign.  
On him I lay what you would lay on me,  
The right and fortune of his happy stars;  
Which God defend that I should wring from him!

BUCKINGHAM
My lord, this argues conscience in your grace;  
But the respects thereof are nice and trivial,  
All circumstances well considered.  
You say that Edward is your brother's son:  
So say we too, but not by Edward's wife;  
For first he was contract to Lady Lucy—  
Your mother lives a witness to that vow—  
And afterward by substitute betroth'd  
To Bona, sister to the King of France.  
These both put by a poor petitioner,  
A care-crazed mother of a many children,  
A beauty-waning and distressed widow,  
Even in the afternoon of her best days,  
Made prize and purchase of his lustful eye,  
Seduced the pitch and height of all his thoughts  
To base declension and loathed bigamy  
By her, in his unlawful bed, he got  
This Edward, whom our manners term the prince.  
More bitterly could I expostulate,  
Save that, for reverence to some alive,  
I give a sparing limit to my tongue.  
Then, good my lord, take to your royal self  
This proffer'd benefit of dignity;  
If non to bless us and the land withal,  
Yet to draw forth your noble ancestry  
From the corruption of abusing times,  
Unto a lineal true-derived course.
14. How do the Lord Mayor and Catesby contribute to the persuasion?
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15. As Richard is slowly persuaded over the remainder of the scene, underline all the examples of **dramatic irony** you see and annotate for meaning (both Richard and Buckingham).

*For example: “I am unfit for state and majesty” – he doesn’t mean this, he says it to make himself sound humble but the audience thinks he is unfit to become king.*

16. All through this scene Buckingham has used the pronoun “we” – why?
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17. Why does Buckingham leave the room? How does this add to the theatricality of the scene?
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Lord Mayor
Do, good my lord, your citizens entreat you.

BUCKINGHAM
Refuse not, mighty lord, this proffer'd love.

CATESBY
O, make them joyful, grant their lawful suit!

GLOUCESTER
Alas, why would you heap these cares on me?
I am unfit for state and majesty;
I do beseech you, take it not amiss;
I cannot nor I will not yield to you.

BUCKINGHAM
If you refuse it, –as, in love and zeal,
Loath to depose the child, Your brother's son;
As well we know your tenderness of heart
And gentle, kind, effeminate remorse,
Which we have noted in you to your kin,
And legally indeed to all estates,—
Yet whether you accept our suit or no,
Your brother's son shall never reign our king;
But we will plant some other in the throne,
To the disgrace and downfall of your house:
And in this resolution here we leave you.—
Come, citizens: 'zounds! I'll entreat no more.

GLOUCESTER
O, do not swear, my lord of Buckingham.

Exit BUCKINGHAM with the Citizens
CATESBY
Call them again, my lord, and accept their suit.

ANOTHER
Do, good my lord, lest all the land do rue it.

GLOUCESTER
Would you enforce me to a world of care?
Well, call them again. I am not made of stone,
But penetrable to your kind entreats,
Albeit against my conscience and my soul.

Re-enter BUCKINGHAM and the rest
Cousin of Buckingham, and you sage, grave men,
Since you will buckle fortune on my back,
To bear her burthen, whether I will or no,
I must have patience to endure the load:
But if black scandal or foul-faced reproach
Attend the sequel of your imposition,
Your mere enforcement shall acquaintance me
From all the impure blots and stains thereof;
For God he knows, and you may partly see,
How far I am from the desire thereof.

Lord Mayor
God bless your grace! we see it, and will say it.

GLOUCESTER
In saying so, you shall but say the truth.

BUCKINGHAM
Then I salute you with this kingly title:
Long live Richard, England's royal king!

Lord Mayor, Citizens
Amen.

BUCKINGHAM
To-morrow will it please you to be crown'd?

GLOUCESTER
Even when you please, since you will have it so.

BUCKINGHAM
To-morrow, then, we will attend your grace:
And so most joyfully we take our leave.

GLOUCESTER
Come, let us to our holy task again.
Farewell, good cousin; farewell, gentle friends.

Exeunt

18. Write out the line where Richard finally agrees to become king:
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19. Using the same colour as you did for Q10, underline all the negatives words and phrases Richard uses to describe becoming king.

20. When will Richard be crowned King?
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21. What impression of Richard would the audience have from this scene?
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22. What impression of Richard would the citizens/clergymen/etc. have?
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23. Summarise how religion has been manipulated by Richard in this scene:
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Exeunt