**Title:** Richard III: Ambition, Deceit, and Downfall in 15 Minutes

**Cast:** 5 Actors (ages 12–14)

**Doubling Roles:**

* **Actor 1:** Richard / Narrator
* **Actor 2:** Queen Elizabeth / Lady Anne
* **Actor 3:** Buckingham / Clarence
* **Actor 4:** Edward IV / Richmond
* **Actor 5:** Young Prince / Ghosts

**Setting:** England—Palace and battlefield. Props include a crown, scrolls, sword, and cloak. Simple lighting changes for the dream and battle scenes.

**[Prologue – Narrator center stage with crown and shadowed lighting.]**

**NARRATOR (A1):**
Now is the winter of our discontent,
Made glorious by one man’s descent.
A crooked path, a crown obtained—
But blood must pay what power gained.

**Scene 1: Richard’s Ambition Awakens**

**RICHARD (A1):**
I am deformed—and determined to prove a villain.

**CLARENCE (A3):**
Brother, what lies have you whispered to the king?

**RICHARD:**
None I’d repeat. Off to the Tower you go.

**NARRATOR:**
Step by step, Richard removes all in his path.

**Scene 2: Seduction and Strategy**

**LADY ANNE (A2):**
You killed my husband!

**RICHARD:**
And yet, here you are—taking my ring.

**BUCKINGHAM (A3):**
The princes in the Tower—what shall be done?

**RICHARD:**
Silence them. I want no threats to my crown.

**Scene 3: Fear Rises**

**QUEEN ELIZABETH (A2):**
My sons vanish. My house crumbles.

**RICHARD:**
Join with me—or lose all.

**BUCKINGHAM:**
You go too far, Richard. I will not follow.

**RICHARD:**
Then you will not live.

**NARRATOR:**
But ghosts now stir, and battle nears.

**Scene 4: The Night Before Battle**

**RICHARD:** *(asleep)*
What dreams disturb me?

**GHOSTS (A5):**
We were your victims. Despair and die!

**RICHMOND (A4):**
God grant us strength—for justice rides with us.

**Scene 5: The Fall of Richard**

**RICHARD:**
A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!

**RICHMOND:** *(defeats him)*
Your reign is ended. Peace shall reign anew.

**[Epilogue – Narrator center stage.]**

**NARRATOR (A1):**
The crown once stolen, stained with lies,
Falls at last where honor lies.
So ends the tale of Richard’s climb—
A tyrant cursed, undone by time.

**[Lights fade. Curtain.]**