



AL English Literature Module Resource

FILM VERSIONS OF *RICHARD II*

Remember that Shakespeare was a playwright, so he intended for his plays to be seen on stage. If you are lucky enough to be able to attend a production of the play, then please do so. This will really help to bring the characters and the action alive for you.

But watching the play on film is the next best thing, and the following list contains a selection of recommended film versions of the play. These are from different eras and they will take different approaches to the drama, but this in itself is a really good way of getting to know the play as well as developing your own responses to it.

It is highly recommended that you watch **at least one** of these film versions. Comparing different versions of the play allows you to focus on key themes and ideas and how different directors have interpreted these. This in turn reinforces your own ideas about the play and its concerns.

You should certainly watch the play after you have read it in order to consolidate what you have learnt. But some students also like to watch a version of the play before they begin reading so as to fix the characters and ideas in their minds.

William Shakespeare's Richard II – The Globe on Screen (2016) Directed by Simon Godwin

Richard II – The Royal Shakespeare Company (2014) Directed by Gregory Doran

Richard II (Part of the BBC TV Mini-series 'The Hollow Crown') (2012) Directed by Rupert Goold

Richard II – The National Theatre (1995; DVD released in 2016) Directed by Deborah Warner

Richard II – The BBC Shakespeare Collection (1978) Directed by David Giles

Please note that whilst these are excellent adaptations and very useful resources for your learning, you should always remember that some scenes may have been cut or rearranged by the director for dramatic effect.

You must always therefore pay attention to the differences between the film versions and the text itself – and it goes without saying that watching the play is no substitute for reading it very carefully!