

0. KING RICHARD II - Story Preface
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5. EDWARD, THE BLACK PRINCE
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7. WAT TYLER and the PEASANT UPRISING
8. EXECUTION OF WAT TYLER

9. KING RICHARD II



After he is no-longer King, Richard II is taken to the Tower of London. This image depicts a detailed scene from a miniature illustrating this episode in Jean Froissart's *Chronicle* (Volume IV, part 2). Maintained by the British Library, the illumination is known as BL Harley MS. 4380 f.181v. Click on it for a better view.

As king, of course, Richard II was free to renege on his promises.

Not only did he drop his concessions, he ordered many of the revolting peasants to stand trial. Reports differ on the numbers, but hundreds (perhaps thousands) were tried, and many were put to death.

There was a notable glitch in the judicial proceedings. Robert Tresilian, the presiding judge—who was Chief Justice of the King's Bench—instructed all jurors to convict the revolting peasants. The penalty if they voted their conscience? The JURORS would hang.

Tresilian did get his comeuppance, though. Seven years later, he was ALSO hanged.

And what of the king? In 1399, Richard II was arrested and forced to abdicate. He died the following year, most likely murdered.

Applying the philosophy of the Middle Ages, one never knew where the Wheel of Fortune would spin next.

NOTE: Most of the illuminations in this story are from *The Chronicles of Jean Froissart*. We gratefully acknowledge the BNF in Paris for their use.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/KING-RICHARD-II-Knight-s-Tale-A>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/KING-RICHARD-II-Knight-s-Tale-A>

Media Stream



Richard II Arrested

Image online, courtesy the Bibliotheque Nationale de France.

PD

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Richard II - Forced to Abdicate

Image online, courtesy the Bibliotheque Nationale de France.

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Death of Richard II

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The Tragedy of King Richard II

Video clip from *Richard II*, BBC Television Shakespeare cycle, first aired in the UK on October 12, 1978. Copyright, BBC, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the program.

Director: David Giles

Starring:

John Gielgud ... John of Gaunt
Charles Gray ... Duke of York
Derek Jacobi ... Richard II
Janet Maw ... Queen
David Swift ... Duke of Northumberland

Production Companies ... BBC Television, Time-Life Television

Producer ... Cedric Messina

Script Editor ... Alan Shallcross

Designer ... Tony Abbott

Music Adviser ... David Lloyd-Jone

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