

## Tudors – Rich and Poor Assembly Play

Which would you rather have been doing? Hunting during the day and feasting all night or working your fingers to the bone all day and fighting off the bed bugs all night? I know, *not* an easy choice! But the rich didn't have it all their way – cramped corsets for women and ballet tights for men – fashion can have its own forms of punishment! Find out what it was really like .. being rich *and* poor!

This class play, written by Sue Russell, for class of 30, comes with suggested props, music and numbered seating plan – so it is ready to deliver, with minimum stress to the teacher! It is entertaining and educational at the same time – covering all the key teaching points (from the UK QCA documents).

(Also available for this unit , set of 5 guided reading play scripts plus quizzes - The Country, Town Life, Life at Court, Fashion, and The Theatre - see Guided Reading Play Scripts section)

### SAMPLE TEXT

#### Tudors – Rich and Poor Assembly

*eating and enjoying themselves, nine out of ten people were doing back-breaking work on the land.*

**Landowner 1:** *Oh come, come! Us landowners invited you poor folk into our stately homes – with open arms ...to be our servants, that is, preparing our food in the kitchens, serving it up, and making sure us rich lot did absolutely nothing to spoil our privileged lives! Just as it should be. (Turning to other landowners) Am I right?*

**Landowner 2:** *Quite so. We needed this lot (pointing to poor labourers) to farm our lands whilst we went hunting during the day and dancing at night.*

**Landowner 3:** *It would never have done to spoil our fine clothes. Who ever heard of the nobility getting their hands dirty! We'd have been laughed out of court!*

**Narrator:** *So it would seem there was something of a gap between this lot (pointing to courtiers) and this lot (pointing to the poor). There doesn't seem to be much love lost between them.*

**Shakespeare:** *The course of true love never did run smooth ..*

**Narrator:** *If at all, with this lot. You've got your work cut out if you're going to be able to bring this lot together.*

4. Money – Pink Floyd

### TEACHING 'COVERAGE'

## 5. Unit 8: Tudor Assembly (Rich and Poor)

- (i) Shakespeare (famous quotes)
- (ii) Timeline – Tudor monarchs
- (iii) How the rich lived – houses/lifestyle
- (iv) How the poor lived – houses/lifestyle
- (v) Life in Tudor towns
  - Trade
  - Law enforcement
  - 'Medicine' – treatments for various conditions
- (ii) Banquets
- (iii) Fashion
- (iv) Sport

## MUSIC

### 1. Canon - Pachelbel.

- 2. Money Money Money - Abba (or Money - Pink Floyd)
- 3. Our House - Madness
- 4. Street Life - Roxy Music
- 5. Theme music to Casualty or Holby City
- 6. Theme music to Master Chef (or Food Glorious Food - Oliver)