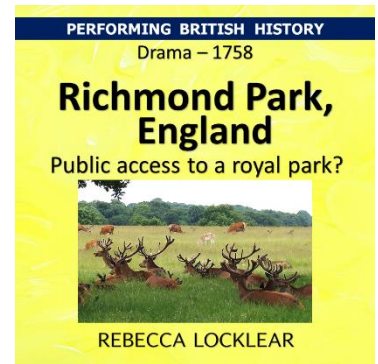


“Richmond Park, England” includes—

- Skit
- Extensive background information, map, photos.
- Sources



Skit Notes: Richmond Park, England

Rebecca Locklear

Summary: Three boys find out they can walk through a park in 1758 that had previously been reserved only for royalty. But how exactly can they do that?

Type: True information; made up skit

Grades: 9-12

Cast of Characters:

	# of Lines
Antony, commoner, age 14	24
Thomas, commoner, age 16	27
William, commoner, age 14	21

Setting: Near Richmond Park, England in 1758.

Props: Large pictures of gate and ladder stile or projected pictures, bench.

Performance Time: 5-8 minutes

Background Information:

Term “Park”: Until the end of the 1400s in England, a park (derived from the old English *pearroc*) “was ... an enclosed parcel of land, the purpose of which was to retain the beasts of the chase, which group of animals included deer (Brown, 13).”



Richmond Park near London, England was formed in 1625 by King Charles I (1600-1649) when he moved his court to Richmond Palace because of an outbreak of the plague in London. “The King, who was excessively affected to hunting and the sport of the field, had a great desire to make a great park for red as well as fallow deer between Richmond and Hampton Court (Macray/Hyde).” The park, which at the time included Crown land, common land, and farms, was called the king’s *New Park*. (Later, the named was changed to....

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WHERE HAS THIS SKIT BEEN USED?

- History classes as reader’s theatre
- Drama showcases
- Museums

Dedicated to the Museum of Richmond, England

Richmond Park, England

Rebecca Locklear

ANTONY: *(walking with THOMAS, to WILLIAM who meets them from opposite direction)* William, ye got the news? Mr. Lewis wins his case over Princess Amelia. *(shakes head)* How is that possible?

THOMAS: *(agrees)* A miracle it is. *(whining)* The royal family always wins.

WILLIAM: Me mother says when she was small, all folk had free liberty to pass on foot through the park. Lower class could even go on horseback. Not just through one gate either. But, what is one footpath, eh? Now we will cross the park on one footpath. That is not much.

ANTONY: *(sits on bench, to THOMAS who joins him)* When did our *betters* close the Park to we ordinary folk? *(shrugs)*

THOMAS: I don't know. Long time ago. All this time, the door-keeper says, "Where's your ticket?" and then the rich enter in fine carriages. *(to WILLIAM)* William, it may be one footpath, but I daresay it is worthy. Beats walking around 2,000 acres. Maybe one day, the whole park will be open again.

WILLIAM: *(to self)* No more fun tryin' to sneak over the wall.

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CONTINUED!



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