

TEENAGE
DECK

SEATTLE
REPER

BY MIKE LEW

DIRECTED BY
MALIKA OYETIMEIN

Play Guide

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Dear Theatergoer,

Teenage Dick by Mike Lew is a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's classic *Richard III*, told through the eyes of Richard Gloucester, a high school student with cerebral palsy who runs for class president and decides to take any means necessary to win the race. Beyond the everyday politics of life in American High School, *Teenage Dick* demands us as artists and audience members to interrogate both the stories we tell, and the stories, true or untrue, that our bodies tell about us.

To borrow a phrase, "If this were my story, it would be about how I survived."

The reality of both the world that we live in and the world that Shakespeare created in *Richard III* is that things are rarely easy for anyone who doesn't fit the status quo. This play explores that reality through lenses of power, privilege, immorality and accountability. As a person with multiple invisible disabilities, I'm inspired to share this work with high school audiences and open up conversations that are too often ignored, and to do so with sensitivity and grace.

Because the play deals with some potentially difficult content, we wanted to provide some advisories upfront:

- **Language:** This play contains a fair amount of profanity, including the F-Word. There are many offensive terms used for disabilities and the disabled. The disabled characters use them against themselves and each other in addition to able-bodied characters using them.
- **Romance and Sex:** While not explicit, this play contains some sexually suggestive language, including the mention of unprotected sex leading to pregnancy.
- **Violence and Death:** This play mentions hazing and many threats of violence, and includes some physical violence including a fight between two male characters, a character who attempts vehicular homicide, and a character who dies by suicide.



For help navigating these topics, please see our resources for educators and parents on page 11 and our resources for students on page 9 of this Play Guide. You can also visit our resources webpage at seattlerep.org/mentalhealthresources, or reach out to our Youth Engagement Team to connect you to the support that you need.

See you at the theater!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Lee Reed".

Alex Lee Reed
Associate Director of Arts Engagement,
Youth & Learning

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT



Mike Lew is writing, with his wife Rehana Lew Mirza, an animated film project for Dreamworks. His play *Teenage Dick* has been optioned by Semi-Formal Prods and he is currently at work on the screenplay. Mike and Rehana are the co-bookwriters of the Broadway bound musical comedy *Bhangin' It*, about a collegiate bhangra dance team, which will premiere at the La Jolla Playhouse. Other plays include *tiny father* (Audible); *Teenage Dick* (Donmar Warehouse/London, Ma-Yi at The Public Theater/New York, Woolly Mammoth, Huntington Theatre Company, Pasadena Playhouse); *Tiger Style!* (South Coast Rep, La Jolla Playhouse); *Bike America* (Ma-Yi, Alliance); and *microcrisis* (Ma-Yi, InterAct). He and Rehana Lew Mirza are Mellon Foundation Playwrights in Residence at Ma-Yi where they co-wrote *The Colonialism Trilogy*. Mike is a Dramatists Guild Council member, Tony voter and New Dramatists resident. Honors: Guggenheim, Lark Venturous and NYFA fellowships; Steinberg Playwrights, Kleban, PEN, Lanford Wilson, Helen Merrill, Heideman, and Kendeda awards. Education: Juilliard, Yale.

A SUMMARY OF SHAKESPEARE'S RICHARD III

Synopsis and plot overview by Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust

TL;DR (SHORT VERSION):

Jealous and crippled, Richard of Gloucester wants to be King of England and uses manipulation and deceit to achieve his goal. He murders his brothers, nephews, and any opposition to become King Richard III. In the end, Henry of Richmond raises an army, kills Richard in battle, and becomes King Henry VII.

MORE DEETS, PLEASE:

ACT I

(*Richard III* follows the events portrayed in *Henry VI Part 3*.) Richard of Gloucester, the brother of King Edward IV, is determined to gain the crown of England for himself, no matter what. His plot begins as he romantically pursues Lady Anne, a widow. He woos her as she accompanies the funeral procession of her father-in-law, King Henry VI (whom Richard murdered). Anne is unable to resist Richard's advances and becomes Duchess of Gloucester. Richard engineers the imprisonment of his elder brother, Clarence, in the Tower of London. Clarence tells his jailer a dream he had of drowning. Shortly afterwards, Richard's hired assassins kill him and place the body in a cask of wine.

ACT II

King Edward IV is ill, and Richard is appointed to govern in his place, aided by Lord Hastings and the Duke of Buckingham. Three women mourn their state: Margaret, former queen of Henry VI; Queen Elizabeth, Edward's wife; and the widowed Duchess of York, Richard's mother. Margaret curses Richard and the kingdom.

ACT III-IV

To counter any claims to the crown, Richard confines his nephews, the young Prince of Wales and his brother, in the Tower of London. Buckingham assists Richard's rise to power by helping persuade the Lord Mayor and the people of London to support their faction. When disease kills Edward, his brother is proclaimed King Richard III.

Richard has Lord Hastings, the Lord Chamberlain, executed for attempting to thwart him. Richard also sends an assassin to smother the princes in the tower in their sleep. Buckingham suspects Richard's role in the death of the young princes. Then when he is denied an earldom, Buckingham seeks to raise an army against Richard. Richard captures and executes him. Meanwhile, Richard wants Elizabeth of York, Edward IV's daughter, as a new wife to secure his position as King. He has his current wife, Anne, murdered.

ACT V

Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, is the heir to the Lancastrian claim to the throne, and he gathers an army in France to oppose Richard's tyrannical reign. Their armies meet at Bosworth in Leicestershire. The night before the battle, the ghosts of his victims haunt and curse Richard, while appearing to Richmond and blessing him for the battle. Richmond kills Richard III on Bosworth Field and is proclaimed Henry VII of England. He plans to end the 'Wars of the Roses' by marrying Elizabeth of York and becoming the link between the white rose of York to the red rose of Lancaster.

Source: shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/shakespeadia/shakespeares-plays/richard-iii/

IN CONVERSATION... with director Malika Oyetimein

Seattle Rep: What excites you about directing *Teenage Dick*?

Malika Oyetimein: *Teenage Dick* gives me the opportunity to talk about Disability in a three-dimensional way. By and large, the topic of disability has been led by able-bodied people. The show takes a fictionalized character that is usually played by an able-bodied actor (Richard III), and by the simple decision to cast the character authentically, it forces us to truly see a disabled person. Richard wants love, companionship, respect, power – all the things that an able-bodied person wants. It excites me to be able to show that nuance to an audience. I believe that Seattle Rep audiences are ready to be challenged and shaken to the core. I am excited to be the one to knock them around.

SR: Why do you think Shakespeare plays like *Richard III* continue to be adapted? What about Shakespeare's work speaks to younger generations?

MO: Shakespeare's plays have it all. Love, lust, betrayal, murder, envy, greed, revenge, desire, fear. These themes are universal, and they are timeless. The stories he crafted are easily adapted and made modern because these are themes that will never go away.

SR: From plays to film, we're continuing to see modern adaptations of Shakespeare's plays set in high school. Why do you think high school has become a popular setting for modern Shakespeare adaptations?

MO: High school is high school is high school. We all know high school. We all barely got out of it. Setting Shakespeare in high school is perfect because it has all the stakes, and everyone is, in their own way, vying for power and social status. And that is a climb that we all understand because we all did it in one way or another. One only has to close their eyes and they can immediately see the dingy walls of their high school. That makes us perfectly primed to experience the show. Watching Richard vying to ascend to the highest ranks is something we can all relate to.



Rheanna Atendido in *Teenage Dick* rehearsal (2022).

SR: What excites you most about working with this cast of young actors?

MO: I feel like I hit the jackpot, like I got a winning lottery ticket. In the character description, Mike Lew specifies "if it's a choice between greener age-appropriate actors versus older comedic geniuses, feel free to 'age up.'" I didn't have to age up. I got young, experienced, comedic geniuses. But beyond that, I have actors who have the heart and the bravery to tell the truthfulness of this story fully. What a gift.

SR: Do you have any words of wisdom that you would like to pass on to young theater artists out there?

MO: I would love to tell every young theater artist to take their time. We are living in a world where art is being called content; where art has been commodified and turned into sound bites and clips that we consume at an alarmingly ravenous rate. It's a machine. As a young artist, it is hard to separate the art you want to create from the fun clips that you put together for social media. I want you to take the time to distinguish the two. I want you to take the time to think about the kind of art you want to create; the kind of art that sets your soul on fire. Don't rush to identify the type of artist you are. Be brave enough to fail and then be a warrior and get back up. Don't let anyone tell your story for you. Get out there and tell your story as authentically as possible, as loud as possible.

SR: What do you hope audiences take away from *Teenage Dick*?

MO: *Teenage Dick* is the first professional production I am directing since I became disabled. I have been disabled for almost three years and every day I learn something new about myself. More importantly, every day I see the ways in which I walked around as an able-bodied person and did not fully consider or see disabled people.

Ableism is not a conscious state of being. Ableism is a series of actions that are made every day by able-bodied people that do not see or think of disabled people. During table work, one of the disabled actors in the room said, "There is nothing wrong with my body. The only times I remember that I am disabled is when something gets in the way of my ability to just be."

Teenage Dick explores the ways in which we don't see anyone, both disabled and able-bodied. We don't take the time to see the layers in people's lived experience, so we "other" them because it's easy. Everybody in *Teenage Dick* walks around wearing a mask. Disability is at the focus, but the play talks about the ways in which we like to put everyone into easily defined boxes. I want people to leave the show not only seeing disabled people fully but also seeing everyone fully as an individual. I want people to understand that taking the time to truly see an individual is a choice. I want people to leave *Teenage Dick* being brave enough to make that choice.



Rheanna Atendido, Malika Oyetimein and Chip Sherman in *Teenage Dick* rehearsal (2022).

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Here you'll find inspiration from the creative minds behind *Teenage Dick* and our partners at Seattle Public Library to help transport you into the world of *Teenage Dick* in a different way.

WATCH:



Check out the trailer for the new-ish Netflix series *Special*, <https://youtu.be/b8S9Gxrp-ul> and read this article from CBC Canada about how actors with disabilities are changing the narrative in Hollywood.

For discussion: What makes you different? How would you like to see yourself represented on stage or in film, and how is that different from what we commonly see today?

LISTEN:



Check out this playlist <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/55jjMTNlyQueQ6mDnc0Vcp?si=518ce4b8d7704a44> courtesy of Sound Designer Erin Bednarz!

For discussion: Put yourself in the designer's seat! What 5-10 songs would you choose to describe your life? Your school? Your friend group?

READ:



Get your library cards or e-readers ready. Our friends over at Seattle Public Library have generously created this recommended reading list specifically for the show.

seattlerep.org/about-us/inside-seattle-rep/teenage-dick-reading-and-media-list

RESOURCES

RESOURCES FOR YOUTH

If you or someone you know is struggling, know that you are not alone. While this is not an exhaustive list, we've put together this collection of resources as a starting point on your journey to getting the support you deserve. Whoever, wherever, however you are — remember that you're beautiful and we always love having you around.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Call 800-273-8255 • For immediate help: call 911 for a life-threatening emergency.

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

MISSION: The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. We're committed to improving crisis services and advancing suicide prevention by empowering individuals, advancing professional best practices, and building awareness.

NOTE: 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. While some areas may be currently able to connect to the Lifeline by dialing 988, this dialing code will be available to everyone across the United States starting on July 16, 2022.

Crisis Text Line

Text HOME to 741741

crisistextline.org

MISSION: Crisis Text Line provides free, 24/7, high-quality text-based mental health support and crisis intervention by empowering a community of trained volunteers to support people in their moments of need. At the intersection of empathy and innovation — we promote mental well-being for people wherever they are.

The Trevor Project

Call 1-866-488-7386 • Text "START" to 678678 • thetrevorproject.org

MISSION: We believe LGBTQ+ young people deserve a welcoming, loving world. And we wake up every day dedicated to making that a reality.

NOTE: Provides crisis support, as well as online informational resources and communities to engage with other LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Teen Clinic

Auburn – Call for an appointment. 206-477-0600 • Bellevue – Walk ins or appointment. 206-477-8000

Federal Way – Walk ins or appointment. 206-477-6800 • Kent – Call for an appointment. 206-477-6950

kingcounty.gov/teenclinic

MISSION: Public Health teen clinics provide a safe, friendly, confidential place for teens to get the help they need and learn the facts. All services free or low cost. Guys and girls up to their 21st birthday are welcome at Teen Clinics. We welcome straight, gay, lesbian, bi, trans, queer, and questioning teens. We do not judge you based on who you have sex with.

Planned Parenthood

Call 1-800-230-7526 • plannedparenthood.org

MISSION: Planned Parenthood is one of the nation's leading providers of high-quality, affordable health care, and the nation's largest provider of sex education. With or without insurance, you can always come to us for your health care.

NOTE: In Washington state, birth control and pregnancy testing are confidential. This means that you don't need written permission from your parent or guardian to get services like birth control or pregnancy tests. It also means we will not tell anyone about your visit unless you ask us to. For STD testing and treatment, teens who are 14 and older may access services without getting permission from a parent or guardian. We will not tell anyone about your visit unless you ask us to.

RESOURCES

Stop Bullying

stopbullying.gov

MISSION: StopBullying.gov provides information from various government agencies on what bullying is, what cyberbullying is, who is at risk, and how you can prevent and respond to bullying.

Active Minds

activeminds.org

MISSION: Active Minds has since become the premier organization impacting young adults and mental health. Now on more than 600 campuses, we directly reach more than 1.9 million students each year through campus awareness campaigns, events, advocacy, outreach, and more. Our consistent message, amplified by nearly 15,000 young adults each year, is that mental health needs to be talked about as easily as physical health. Only then can we bring suicide and mental health into the open so no one struggles alone.

You Matter

youmatter.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

MISSION: For over a decade, we've been supporting people aged 12-25 through some of the biggest challenges in their lives. From bullying and mental health to identity and relationships. Whatever the issue, we've got your back.

Ditch the Label

ditchthelabel.org

MISSION: For over a decade, we've been supporting people aged 12-25 through some of the biggest challenges in their lives. From bullying and mental health to identity and relationships. Whatever the issue, we've got your back.

Disability Rights Washington

Call (800) 562-2702 or (206) 324-1521

Send an email to info@dr-wa.org • disabilityrightswa.org

MISSION: Disability Rights Washington is a private non-profit organization that protects the rights of people with disabilities statewide. Our mission is to advance the dignity, equality, and self-determination of people with disabilities. We work to pursue justice on matters related to human and legal rights.

Teen Link

Call or text 1-866-833-6546 • teenlifeline.org

MISSION: In 1993, 16-year-old Audra Letnes died at the hands of a boyfriend who had abused her for over a year. Estranged from her friends and afraid to tell her mother what was happening, Audra kept to herself. Audra's inability to tell those closest to her what was happening in her life sadly reflects the way too many teens feel today. Teen Link was created – a help line for and by teens in King County. Today, Teen Link answers calls from teens in need and also makes youth suicide prevention presentations at schools throughout the County. Teen Link is also accredited by CONTACT USA.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Helpline

Call 800-950-6264 • Send an email to info@nami.org • nami.org/help

MISSION: Provides information, resource referrals and support to people living with a mental health condition, their family members and caregivers.

SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline

Call 1-800-985-5990 • Text "TalkWithUS" to 66746. Spanish-speakers can call and press "2" for bilingual support. Interpretation also available in over 100 other languages.

RESOURCES

WA Warm Line

Call 877-500-WARM (9276) • TTY: 206-461-3610 • crisisconnections.org/wa-warm-line

MISSION: Peer support help line for people living with emotional and mental health challenges.

Washington's Mental Health Referral Service for Children and Teens

Call 1-833-303-5437 • To call our program using an interpreter, call 1-866-583-1527

seattlechildrens.org/clinics/washington-mental-health-referral-service

MISSION: Referral service for youth (<18 years old) and their families. Get connected to mental health providers that meet your needs and your insurance coverage.

Washington Recovery Help Line

Call 1-866-789-1511 • warecoveryhelpline.org

MISSION: The Washington Recovery Help Line is a program of Crisis Connections. We offer an anonymous, confidential 24-hour help line for Washington State residents. This help line is for those experiencing substance use disorder and/or a mental health challenge. Our professionally-trained volunteers and staff provide emotional support. They can also connect callers with local treatment resources or more community services.

Self-Harm Hotline

Call 1-800-366-8288 • teenlifeline.org

Teen Line

Call 1-800-852-8336 • Text "TEEN" to 839863 • warecoveryhelpline.org

MISSION: Peer-based education & support.

24-hour Crisis Line

Call 1-866-427-4747 or 206-461-3222

King County 2-1-1

Call 2.1.1 or 1-800-621-4636

MISSION: Information & referrals to community resources.

RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY

When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time.

Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy.

Learn more about what you can do:

stopbullying.gov/resources/what-you-can-do

socialworklicensemap.com/blog/talking-to-kids-about-suicide

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

seattlerep.org/about-us/inside-seattle-rep/mental-health-resources

GLOSSARY

Listen for these words and phrases throughout the play.

Phoebus Apollo (page 5)

Greco-Roman god of sun, medicine, music, poetry, and sciences. Apollo's chief epithet was Phoebus, literally "bright"; the god who made men aware of their own guilt and purified them of it.

feeble (page 5)

lacking physical strength, especially as a result of age or illness.

governance (page 5)

the action or manner of governing.

inglorious (page 5)

causing shame or a loss of honor; not renowned.

dominion (page 5)

sovereignty or control.

Fabergé egg (page 5)

a jewelled egg created by the jewellery firm House of Fabergé; as 69 were created, of which 57 survive today. They have become symbols of the splendor, power and wealth of the Romanov dynasty and the Russian Empire.

gait (page 6)

a person's manner of walking.

read the riot act (page 6)

a stern reprimand or warning of consequences; Derived from The Riot Act 1714 where the Parliament of Great Britain ordered any group of 12 or more people to disperse or face punitive action.

pox-scrambled harlot (page 6)

an insult comprised of two parts, pox-scrambled meaning marked by disease displaying skin pustules, and harlot, meaning a prostitute

Machiavelli's *The Prince*

(page 6)

an instruction guide written by diplomat Niccolò Machiavelli for new royals, attesting that the aims of princes – such as glory and survival – can justify the use of immoral means to achieve those ends

Niccolò Machiavelli (page 7)

a Italian philosopher and writer, Machiavelli has long been associated with the practice of diabolical expediency in the realm of politics

principality (page 7)

a state ruled by a prince.

phalanx (page 7)

a body of troops or police officers standing or moving in close formation.

virile agitur (page 7)

commonly translated as "the manly thing is being done", the motto comes from the Bible, in 1 Corinthians 16:13–14, which says "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

de novo (page 7)

from the beginning; anew.

per angusta ad augusta

(page 7)

Latin; through difficulties to honors

Homo erectus (page 7)

the oldest known early humans to have possessed modern human-like features

coup (page 7)

a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government.

Clueless (page 11)

a 1995 American coming-of-age teen comedy film

CP (page 11)

abbreviation for cerebral palsy

Down syndrome (page 11)

a genetic disorder caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21.

fructify (page 11)

make (something) fruitful or productive.

sirrah (page 12)

sir [commanding, insulting, or familiar, depending on context]

circummountable (page 12)

a round-about means of being overcome

immutable (page 12)

unchanging over time or unable to be changed.

Icarus (page 12)

the son of Daedalus who to escape imprisonment flies by means of artificial wings made of wax but perishes when the his wings melt as a result of flying too close to the sun; a symbol of hubris or overconfidence

Sadie Hawkins (page 13)

informal dance to which the women invite the men.

redoubtable knave (page 14)

a feared, dreaded, or revered rascal

cerebral palsy (page 15)

a group of disorders that affect a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture; cerebral means having to do with the brain, and palsy means weakness or problems with using the muscles.

"Methinks the lady doth protest too much" (page 17)

a line from the play Hamlet by William Shakespeare; a lady's objections are too excessive to be believed.

Lancelot and Guinevere

(page 17)

from Arthurian Legend; Lancelot fall in love with Queen Guinevere, King Arthur's wife, and the pair became lovers. A band of knights were sent to Guinevere's chamber to discover the lovers, and Guinevere was seized and condemned to burn to death for her adultery. Sir Lancelot returned to rescue Guinevere, but the affair divided the Knights of the Round Table and weakened Arthur's kingdom. Lancelot died a hermit and Guinevere became a nun at Amesbury.

GLOSSARY

Pyramus and Thisbe (page 17)

from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*; two lovers who occupy connected houses, forbidden to be wed due to their parents' rivalry. They arrange to meet, but Thisbe arrives first and discovers a lioness with a bloody mouth, and she flees in fear, leaving behind her cloak. Pyramus discovers the scenes, and assuming that a wild beast has killed her, Pyramus kills himself. Thisbe returns to Pyramus dead body and ends her life in grief.

Cleopatra (page 18)

Egyptian queen in 1st-c BC

"Caesar would've died of old age" (page 18)

Caesar was Roman politician and general, 1st-c BC who was betrayed by his followers and assassinated

John Hughes (page 19)

an American filmmaker best known for his coming-of-age teen comedy films

coalition (page 19)

an alliance for combined action, especially a temporary alliance of political parties forming a government or of states.

kleptomaniac (page 21)

a person with a recurrent inability to resist urges to steal items

verily (page 21)

true, certain, right

gyrate (page 24)

move or cause to move in a circle or spiral, especially quickly.

Alvin Ailey (page 25)

an American dancer, director, choreographer, and activist who founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The Tower (page 29)

a covert reference to the Tower of London, the site of the notorious murder of the Princes in the Tower, and other victims

simian (page 30)

relating to, resembling, or affecting apes or monkeys.

God's bread (page 32)

an expletive drawn from the play *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

tergiversator (page 32)

a respondent who avoids giving a clear direct answer.

mete (page 34)

dispense or allot justice, a punishment, or harsh treatment.

sprynges (page 34)

a noose or snare for catching small game; a trap

veneers (page 34)

the cosmetic cover of something else.

vouchsafe 36

allow, permit, grant

John 5:11 (page 40)

from the Bible; And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

GLOSSARY

iota (page 41)

an extremely small amount.

vainglorious coxcomb

(page 41)

an insult comprised of two parts, vainglorious meaning overly vain, and coxcomb meaning fool

blusterous malfeasance

(page 41)

an insult comprised of two parts, blusterous meaning rough or stormy, and malfeasance meaning wrongdoing, especially by a public official.

lamprey (page 41)

an eel-like aquatic jawless vertebrate that has a sucker mouth with horny teeth and a rasping tongue. The adult is often parasitic, attaching itself to other fish and sucking their blood.

braggadocio (page 41)

boastful or arrogant behavior.

demagoguery (page 41)

political practices that seek support by appealing to the prejudices of ordinary people rather than by using rational argument.

tyrant (page 41)

a cruel and oppressive ruler.

cretinous mesomorph

(page 42)

an insult comprised of two parts, cretinous meaning foolish or stupid, and mesomorph which refers to body types with a naturally high muscle-to-fat ratio; a fancy way of saying meathead.

purloined (page 43)

steal (something).

bauble (page 44)

a small, showy trinket or decoration.

sepulchered (page 46)

lay or bury in or as if in a sepulcher, which is a small room or monument in which a dead person is laid or buried.

Demeter (page 46)

goddess of agriculture who once laid a curse on the world that caused plants to wither and die, the land became desolate.

briars (page 47)

any of a number of prickly scrambling shrubs

tremulous (page 47)

shaking or quivering slightly.

mewling incertitude (page 47)

a phrase meaning a whimpering state of uncertainty or hesitation.

cotillion ball (page 48)

a formal ball, especially one at which young women are presented to society.

tenebrosity (page 55)

the quality of being dark or shadowy.

impunity (page 56)

exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action.

Mussolini (page 56)

an Italian politician and journalist who founded and led the National Fascist Party.

pinning sycophant toad

(page 57)

an insult meaning a weak flatterer or suck-up

lunkhead (page 59)

a slow-witted person.

corporealized (page 59)

to give physical form to.

strumpet (page 59)

a woman who has many casual sexual encounters or relationships.

termagant (page 59)

a harsh-tempered or overbearing woman.