**Thomas Becket Role Play**

**Scene 1**

**Cast** – King Henry II, Thomas Becket, Advisor 1, Advisor 2, Advisor 3

Henry is considering making his friend Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury.

His advisors present different arguments explaining what the benefits and dangers of such an appointment might be.

Henry II makes his decision and then calls in Becket who accepts the position.

**Scene 2**

**Cast** – King Henry II, Thomas Becket, supporter of Becket, advisor to Henry, priest accused of murder.

Henry demands that the Priest is tried in the King’s court.

Becket refuses arguing that the King has no power over the church only God.

Henry’s advisor suggests action should be taken over Becket’s defiance.

Becket is warned by his supporter to flee in case Henry decides to punish him.

**Scene 3**

**Cast** – King Henry II, four knights.

Henry is pleased that Becket has returned to England but is then informed that the Archbishop has expelled all the bishops who supported Henry during their disagreement.

“What cowards have I about me?” Henry asks. “Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?”

The four knights decide to travel to Canterbury to carry out the King’s wishes.

**Scene 4**

**Cast** – Thomas Becket, four knights. Becket’s monks if needed.

The four knights arrive in Canterbury Cathedral and ask; “Where is Thomas Becket, traitor to the King and the country?”

“Here I am, no traitor to the King, but a priest,” Becket replies unafraid.

“You shall die this instant,” they cried.

Becket kneels and prays and the knights are unable to pull him from the cathedral.

The knights hack him to death, one spreading his brains across the floor of the cathedral, another warding off any who might interfere with their actions.

**Scene 5**

**Cast** – Becket’s corpse/tomb, King Henry II, a Canterbury monk.

Henry arrives before Becket’s tomb in Canterbury to ask for forgiveness. He is whipped on the back by monks.