

QUICK CARD: KING LEAR



<p><i>Reference</i></p>	<p><i>King Lear</i>. William Shakespeare. (1606) ISBN-13: 978-0393926644</p>
<p><i>Plot</i></p>	<p>Aging King Lear wants to retire, so he decides to divvy up his kingdom to his daughters on the condition that they flatter him with professions of faithful love. When his loyal and loving daughter Cordelia refuses to humor his foolishness, Lear disinherits and banishes her, leaving her portion of the kingdom to her two, shrewd sisters. These immediately conspire to rob their father of his personal sovereignty and dignity in order to subjugate him to their wills. The unfortunate Lear, maddened by rage and grief, comes to a degree of self-sight through this tragic misadventure.</p>
<p><i>Setting</i></p>	<p>In the winter of Lear's life. In ancient, pre-Christian Britain. In the court of King Lear.</p>
<p><i>Characters</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lear – (protagonist) King of Britain • King of France – husband of Cordelia • Duke of Burgundy – suitor to Cordelia • Duke of Cornwall – Regan's husband and a violent conspirator against Lear and Gloucester • Duke of Albany – Goneril's husband and an honest man • Earl of Kent – Lear's faithful and honest advisor • Earl of Gloucester – another foolish father who learns to see himself • Edgar – son to Gloucester, also plays Old Tom • Edmund – (antagonist) bastard son of Gloucester • Curan – a courtier • Old Man – tenant on Gloucester's estate • A Doctor

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fool – loving attendant and entertainer of the king, whose courtly jests aim at revelations of the truth • Oswald – evil steward of Goneril • Two Captains • A Gentleman – attendant on Cordelia • A Gentleman – attendant on Lear • A Knight – attendant on Lear • A Herald • Three Servants to Cornwall • Two Messengers • Goneril – (antagonist) one of Lear’s disrespectful and unfaithful daughters • Regan – (antagonist) Lear’s second disrespectful and unfaithful daughter, who plots against Gloucester • Cordelia – Lear’s loyal daughter
<i>Conflict</i>	<p>Man vs. Self; Man vs. Man; Man vs. the gods: Will Lear gain sight of himself before he and his kingdom are lost?</p>
<i>Theme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Knowledge and Sanity • Blame shifting and Insanity • Blessings of humility • Sin and its Consequences • Generational sin and learned behavior • Forgiveness • Unchecked power and Accountability • Duty • The Grandeur and Misery of Man
<i>Literary Devices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagery – use of evocative word pictures to communicate abstract ideas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symbolism – the extended use of an image, usually associated with major story themes. Look for sight imagery in <i>Lear</i>, which resonates with Shakespeare’s major thematic ideas of self-sight.• Blank Verse – unrhyming iambic pentameter• 5-Act play structure and the story chart• Dramatic Irony – a literary device which found its origins in ancient Greek drama whereby a character’s deeds and words are fully understood by the audience, while unknown to them.• Puns – also called paronomasia. Double entendre used for comic or dramatic effect.
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