

King Lear

William Shakespeare



About the author

The study of Shakespeare's life (1564–1616) is not an easy task. Since his death there has been a lot of speculation about his religious tendencies, sexual orientation and indeed about whether he actually wrote all the plays he is accredited with. However, he is widely recognised as the author of several tragedies, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Macbeth* and *King Lear*; comedies such as *As You Like it*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Twelfth Night*, and the historical plays *Richard III* and *Henry VI*. One interesting point to note is that in his time, all his plays were written in pamphlet form, since they were intended to be used solely as scripts for the actors. Shakespeare made his money from the performances of his plays, not from the sale of the literature, which was the property of the theatre company.

Summary

Act 1: King Lear, the Duke of Cornwall, and the Duke of Albany are looking at a map of Lear's kingdom. Lear is getting old and does not want to have the worries of ruling his kingdom, so he declares he has divided it up into three parts. He has three daughters, Goneril, Regan and Cordelia, and will give the largest share to the daughter that he believes loves him the most. Goneril and Regan both swear undying love for the king in very eloquent language, and are given their parts of the kingdom, but the youngest daughter, Cordelia, is unable to express herself very well, and simply says she loves Lear as a child should love a father. This enrages Lear and he disowns her on the spot. The King of France, who wants to marry Cordelia, enters the room and takes her away. Goneril, who is married to the Duke of Albany, and

Regan, who is married to the Duke of Cornwall, then discuss their father's deteriorating mental health and the future problems this could cause. In a room in the Earl of Gloucester's castle, Edmund, the illegitimate son of the Earl, is lamenting the fact his position is not lawful and brandishing a letter supposedly written by his brother, Edgar. The Earl enters and demands to see the letter. In it he reads that Edgar doesn't want to grow old before he receives his inheritance and mentions the possibility of his father's early death. The implied treachery enrages the Earl and he blames it, and the problems with Lear and his daughter, on the recent movements of the sun and the moon. Edmund then talks to his brother and tells him he is in danger and that he should stay out of the Earl's way until he calms down. When Edgar leaves the room, the scheming Edmund reflects on how stupid and gullible his father and brother are to believe everything they are told. Goneril is annoyed with her father and his group of badly behaved knights. She confronts her father about the knights and he becomes angry. Lear laments the fact that he believed Goneril's love was true, and comforts himself in the thought that he at least has another daughter that loves him. After he leaves, Goneril sends a letter to her sister, warning her of the king's behaviour.

Act 2: Edmund tells Edgar to run away from the Earl of Gloucester's castle. When he has gone, he tells the Earl that Edgar had asked him to kill him, and that he, Edmund, had put up a fight and shows the Earl a self-inflicted wound. The Earl swears to find Edgar and kill him. Cornwall and Regan arrive and she tells the Earl that Lear's knights and Edgar are behind the plot to kill him. Meanwhile, Edgar is on the run disguised as a pauper called Poor Tom. Lear and Regan discuss his disagreement with Goneril. He tells her that Goneril had sent away half of his knights and that he wouldn't forgive her. Regan tells her father he can stay in her house if only twenty-five knights accompany him. He is furious with his two daughters and walks off into the stormy night, causing the Earl to feel very uneasy about the situation.

Act 3: The Earl communicates to Edmund his worries about the hostile attitude the family is showing towards Lear, adding that he intends to help the king, and that Cornwall must on no account be informed of this. Edmund immediately plans to do just that. Lear is walking through the rain and wind, cursing his daughters and wondering if he is going mad, when he comes across

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Poor Tom, in reality Edgar, pretending to be deranged. Lear is convinced Tom's madness must have resulted from having unkind daughters, just as he has. Gloucester then approaches the pair, doesn't recognise his son, and invites Lear to stay in his home. Lear insists on talking to Tom and Gloucester relents, and asks them both to come to his castle. In a room at the castle, Edmund shows Cornwall a letter which proves Gloucester is a spy, and is in an alliance with the French. He promises to find his father, knowing his father's crime will result in him becoming the next Earl of Gloucester. His father is caught and tied to a chair. A fight breaks out when one of Gloucester's servants tries to protect him and Cornwall is injured. He then stabs Gloucester in both his eyes with his sword, leaving him blind. Regan tells Gloucester that his son Edmund hates him, which makes him realise that Edgar is really his honest son. He is then thrown out of his castle.

Act 4: Gloucester meets Poor Tom on a country road and Tom offers to take him to Dover. A servant informs Goneril that her husband is behaving strangely. He is pleased that the French have attacked and shows no desire to see his wife. She instructs Edmund to go to the Duke of Cornwall and ask for help. Before he goes, they kiss. Her husband enters and begins to criticise his wife's actions as being evil. She answers back, saying he is a weak man. A messenger arrives telling them that Cornwall has died from his wounds, but not before he had gouged out Gloucester's eyes and that Edmund had betrayed his father. Albany vows revenge on Gloucester's attackers. Back at Gloucester's castle, Regan tells Goneril's servant, Oswald, that Edmund wants to be her husband, not Goneril's, and that he should communicate this to her sister. Gloucester and Edgar are walking in a field. Edgar makes Gloucester believe he is walking up a steep hill and shortly afterwards that he has fallen from a great height. Lear arrives, half mad, and he and Gloucester recognise each other. Oswald then tries to kill Gloucester but Edgar kills him first. Before he dies, he gives Edgar a letter from Goneril to Edmund, in which she asks Edmund to kill her husband, Albany, so she can marry him. Lear is brought to a tent where Cordelia is waiting. He is delirious and can't remember anything. At first he doesn't recognise his daughter, but later he does and they are happily reunited.

Act 5: The jealousy of Goneril and Regan intensifies. Edmund is weighing up his options. He knows he can't

marry Goneril while her husband, Albany, is still alive. He needs Albany's help to defeat the French, and so decides to wait and kill him after the battle. Lear and the French lose and Edmund imprisons Lear and Cordelia. Albany accuses Edmund of being a traitor and demands a fight. Edgar arrives, still in disguise, and insists on fighting Edmund himself. Edmund is injured, and while lying on the ground is told the identity of his attacker. Suddenly a servant runs in and tells them that Goneril has committed suicide and Regan has died of poison that Goneril had given her. Edmund is dying but wants to repent. He tells Albany to go quickly to the castle, where Lear and Cordelia are in prison, because he had ordered his men to kill them. A short time afterwards, Lear enters carrying the dead body of Cordelia. He lays her on the ground, and then dies next to her.

Background and themes

Justice: So many terrible things happen to the good and bad people in the play that one has to ask whether there is any justice in the world of King Lear. Indeed, the king himself, when confronting the storm, seems to arrive at the conclusion that the human world is no different from the natural one, in that forces within it operate beyond our control, and with no regard to morality or justice.

Betrayal and jealousy: There are many instances of betrayal in the play. Edmund betrays his brother and his father, Lear betrays his daughter Cordelia, and Goneril and Regan betray their father. Goneril and her lover, Edmund, plan to murder her husband and marry. Jealousy between the two sisters leads to one killing the other and the murderess's suicide.

Authority versus chaos: When Lear hands over his lands to his daughters, he not only personally gives up control of the kingdom, but also plunges the country into chaos, which leads to a French invasion, infighting amongst the inheritors of power and eventually to the deaths of nearly everyone concerned.

Discussion activities

Before reading

- Discuss:** Put the students in small groups and ask them to discuss the following questions: *Have you ever seen a play at the theatre or on television? Have you ever acted in a play? Do you like watching plays? Do you think it is more difficult to be an actor in a play or in a film? Why (not)? What are the popular plays in your country?*

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- 2 **Write:** After the students have read the Introduction, ask them to write down the answers to the following questions. *What does the Earl of Gloucester lose in the play? When was the play written? When was the play first acted? When was William Shakespeare born? Where was he born? When did he die? When did he get married? Who did he marry? How many plays did he write?*

Act 1

While reading (p. 5, after 'The King of France and Cordelia leave.')

- 3 **Write:** Tell the students that Cordelia is keeping a diary. Tell them to write an entry about the day she has had, and to include something about what her hopes and expectations are for her life in France with the French king.

After reading

- 4 **Pair work:** Write the following words on the board: *forests, nothing, Queen, joke, disorder, mother, lucky.* Have the students talk and write in pairs to say how these words were used in Act 1.

Act 2

After reading

- 5 **Write and guess:** Write *Edgar cut his leg with a sword.* on the board. Elicit which word is wrong from the students (arm not leg). Now students choose a sentence from Act 2 and rewrite it changing one word. Students walk around the classroom, reading out their sentences and the other students have to identify and correct the mistake.

Act 3

While reading (p. 24, after 'Edgar follows, dancing like a madman.')

- 6 **Discuss:** Remind the students that Edgar is only pretending to be mad, but of course there are people in the world who are mad and need help. Put them in groups to discuss the following questions: *What happens to mad people in your country, do they go to special hospitals, live with their families, or live on the streets? What things can make people go mad? Do you think medicines can help these people? Can some mad people be dangerous? Do you know any famous people in history who have been mad?*
- 7 **Role play** (p. 27, after 'I am not a spy!'): Put the students in groups of three and tell them they are going to act out a conversation between Gloucester, Regan and Cornwall. Gloucester has to try and convince the other two he is not a spy, and they have to give reasons for hurting him. See Discussion activities key for an example start to the conversation.

After reading

- 8 **Write and ask:** Write *Who is Edmund going to tell about the plans to help Lear?* on the board and elicit the answer (Cornwall). Ask students to write another question about something in Act 3. Now have students walk around the classroom, asking and answering each other's questions.

Act 4

While reading (p. 31, after 'He is a good man and you have made him crazy.')

- 9 **Write and game:** Put the students in groups of four and ask them to write two lists. One list is all the words they know in English to describe a bad person and the other a good person. The team with the longest, correct list wins.

After reading

- 10 **Write and guess:** Put students in pairs and ask them to choose a short paragraph from Act 4. Tell them to write it again, making five changes to words in the text. Students then read out their paragraphs to the other students, who have to identify the mistakes.

Act 5

Before reading

- 11 **Research:** Tell the students that at the time the play was written, and for many years afterwards, the English and the French fought many wars against each other. Ask them to look on the Internet for information about the most important of these conflicts. The students then give an oral presentation of what they have discovered.

While reading (p. 43, after 'He doesn't need you to defend him.')

- 12 **Discuss:** Put the word *jealousy* on the board and explain what it means. Remind the students that the two sisters are extremely jealous of each other and are both fighting for the love of Edmund. Then put them in groups to discuss the following questions: *Do you think it is always bad to feel jealous? Have you ever been jealous in your life? Do you know anybody who is very jealous? What bad things can happen if people are very jealous? Can you think of any films in which jealousy has been very important?*

After reading

- 13 **Write:** Put the students in pairs and tell them that they are newspaper reporters at the time of King Lear. Tell them to write a report of what happened at the end of the play and the reasons they happened. Tell them to write their article in a modern style, using headlines, and to including interviews with the surviving cast, and to predict what might happen in the near future. They could include illustrations of the events and a police report.

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While reading

Act 1

1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a The King of France wanted to marry Lear's oldest daughter.
- b Cordelia hated her sisters.
- c Edmund and Edgar had different mothers.
- d Edmund gave his brother the key to his room.
- e Goneril didn't want Lear's knights to stay in her house.
- f Goneril and Albany had a son.
- g Goneril wrote a letter to her sister.

2 What's first? Number the sentences 1–6.

- a The King of France took Cordelia away.
- b Goneril wanted Lear's knights to leave her house.
- c Edmund gives the Earl of Gloucester a letter.
- d Lear, Cornwall and Albany look at a map.
- e Goneril sent a letter to her sister.
- f Lear became angry with Cordelia.

Act 2

3 Find the right words in Act 2.

- a A word to describe something very, very good. (p. 14)
- b Something is this if it is important and needs to be done quickly. (p. 17)
- c You are this if you behave in a bad way to another person. (p. 18)
- d A word that means the same as a present. (p. 18)
- e A word that means the same as prepared. (p. 19)
- f It means the same as twice or two times as much. (p. 19)
- g The opposite of strong. (p. 20)

4 Finish the sentences with the right words.

- accept unkindness forgiveness blood picture protection
- a There was on Edmund's arm.
 - b Gloucester wanted to send a of Edgar to every part of the kingdom.
 - c Goneril's to Lear was like a knife in his heart.

- d Lear didn't want to ask Goneril for
- e Regan could only twenty-five knights.
- f There was no from the winds for many miles.

5 Put the words in the right place to make a sentence.

- a the Regan letter a had about knights
- b big and Lear a daughter disagreement his had
- c tree enemies Edgar The saved from his
- d knights away Goneril the sent king's half
- e coming Regan that was know the didn't king
- f cry king not to The was going

Act 3

6 Put words on the left with words on the right.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| make | your best |
| wave your | an excuse |
| follow | pain |
| do | orders |
| discover a | letter |
| receive a | arms |
| use bad | crime |
| feel a | language |

7 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- a Gloucester locked a letter away in a box.
- b Edgar was dancing happily like a child.
- c The servants tied Gloucester to a table.
- d Gloucester sent Lear to Dover because his daughters wanted to help him.
- e A servant pushed his sword into Cornwall's stomach.
- f Regan killed the first servant with a stone.

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8 Write the names next to the person who says or thinks this.

Regan Lear Cornwall Gloucester Edgar
Edmund Servant

- a 'No, I didn't give my daughters anything.'
.....
- b 'A man is just an animal when he doesn't have clothes.'
.....
- c 'Please come to my house, the weather is terrible.'
.....
- d 'I have a letter that proves my father is a spy.'
.....
- e 'I will defend my king until I die.'
.....
- f 'Your son told us everything about you and the King of France.'
.....
- g 'I am losing a lot of blood. This is serious.'
.....

Act 4

9 Circle the right words.

- a The old man went away to bring some *clothes / food*.
- b Goneril's husband was behaving very *rudely / strangely*.
- c The French soldiers were coming to *kill / help* the king.
- d Edgar wanted Gloucester to think he was going *up / down* a hill.
- e Edgar's voice *got more serious / changed* when he was talking to Gloucester.
- f Lear offered Gloucester some *money / flowers*.
- g Goneril wanted to kill her husband and marry *her sister's husband / Edgar's brother*.

10 Answer the questions.

- a How long has the old man lived on Gloucester's land?
.....
- b Who carried the messages between Goneril and Edmund?
.....
- c What did Goneril and Edmund do before he left?
.....
- d Why couldn't Albany kill his wife?
.....
- e Who did Albany want to punish?
.....

- f What did Gloucester give to Edgar?
.....
- g Who killed Oswald?
.....

11 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- a Goneril thinks that Edmund is very ftedenrif from her husband.
- b Oswald knew all of Goneril's ctseres.
- c Gloucester wants to say goodbye to the world and end his nplfau life.
- d Women are a complete symtrye to Edgar.
- e Lear can't mbermee where he got his clothes.
- f Lear will drink inposo if Cordelia will give it to him.

Act 5

12 Circle the wrong word in the sentences.

- a Albany was ready to fight the French but or he wasn't happy about fighting Lear.
- b Goneril didn't want to lose lost Edmund to her sister.
- c Edgar looks like as a poor man.
- d Albany wanted to forgiving forgive Lear and Cordelia.
- e Edmund arrived at the tent with a little few soldiers.
- f The pain in Regan's stomach was getting worst worse.
- g Edgar didn't tell his father who he was since until half an hour before he died.
- h Regan was poisoned by for Goneril.
- i Edmund wanted to do a best good thing before he died.

13 Finish the sentences.

- a Regan had a dangerous look in
- b Edmund sent Lear and Cordelia away to a
- c Edgar stood over Edmund and lifted
- d Albany never hated Edgar or
- e Edgar dressed and behaved like a
- f The servants carried the bodies of Goneril and Regan and put them on

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1 What's first? Number the sentences 1–10.

- a Edgar runs away from home and becomes Poor Tom.
- b Goneril tells her husband he is weak and he tells her she is a bad woman.
- c Edgar tells Gloucester that he has fallen from the top of a hill.
- d Gloucester learns that his son is planning to kill him.
- e Lear and Cordelia meet in a tent near Dover.
- f Lear arrives with the dead body of Cordelia.
- g Edgar cuts his brother with a sword and then tells him who he really is.
- h Regan and Goneril die.
- i Goneril and Regan tell their father that they love him.
- j Cornwall takes out Gloucester's eyes with his sword.

2 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Edmund cut himself with his sword.
- b Edgar hides in a tree to escape from his enemies.
- c Regan wanted Lear to bring all his knights to her home.
- d Cornwall, Regan and Goneril ordered Gloucester not to help Lear.
- e Edmund told Gloucester about the plans to help Lear.
- f Lear didn't want to stay and talk to Poor Tom.
- g Oswald wanted to kill Gloucester but Edgar stopped him.
- h Lear didn't know that he was going mad.
- i The French won against the English in the fight.
- j Goneril poisoned Regan because Regan loved Edmund.

3 Finish the sentences with the right names.

Edgar Cordelia Cornwall The King of France
Regan King Lear Gloucester Edmund
Goneril Albany

- a wanted to make a young woman queen of his country.
- b tells his brother to imagine he is attacking him.
- c thinks one of his sons wants to kill him.
- d puts dirt on his face and wears old clothes.

- e is angry that nobody wants to speak to him.
- f kisses a man who isn't her husband.
- g dies because a servant pushed a sword into his side.
- h is not happy with the way his wife treats the king.
- i dies because her sister gave her poison.
- j is taken to a castle with her father and dies.

4 Circle the right words.

- a The King of France was *surprised* / *angry* that Lear didn't love Cordelia.
- b King Lear *thought* / *didn't think* that his knights behaved badly.
- c Edgar called himself *Poor* / *Dirty* Tom.
- d Lear met Edgar in a *castle* / *field*.
- e A servant tried to *protect* / *hurt* Gloucester.
- f Gloucester wanted to go to the top of a *hill* / *tree* at Dover.
- g Albany was *happy* / *angry* about what happened to Gloucester.
- h Edmund loved *both* / *only one* of Lear's daughters.
- i Albany *wanted* / *didn't want* Edgar to kill Edmund.
- j Lear imagined that he saw Cordelia's *mouth* / *eyes* move.

5 Finish the sentences with the right word.

hold describe took enjoy waving fell
refused remembered hurt came

- a Lear wanted to the last years of his life.
- b Cordelia couldn't her love for her father in beautiful language.
- c Cornwall and his wife to speak to Lear.
- d Lear was sure that Regan would not him.
- e Gloucester wanted to Edgar in his arms before he died.
- f Gloucester a step in front of him and fell to the ground.
- g Lear was dressed in flowers and was an imaginary sword.
- h Gloucester Lear's voice very well.
- i Regan held her stomach and to her knees.
- j The knife from Goneril's heart.

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Book key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 a people: bastard, duke, earl, knight, servant, villain
parts of a play: act, scene
things that can kill: poison, sword
- b Open answers
- 3 a thoughtful
b amusing
c south-west England in the 700s
d 30
e Because the King of England at the time, George III, was mad, like King Lear.
- 4 Open answers
- 5 a The King of France b Regan c Cordelia
d Edmund e Gloucester f Edgar g Oswald
h Goneril
- 6 a 3 b 3 c 2 d 1
- 7–8 Open answers
- 9 a 1 b 3 c 6 d 4 e 2 f 5
- 10 Open answers
- 11 a ✗ The attack is not real, and Edmund cuts himself.
b ✓
c ✗ She says that Edgar, with the help of Lear's knights, wanted to kill Gloucester for his money.
d ✗ His madness is an act.
e ✗ She is unnaturally polite to him. She does not want Lear or his knights to stay with her.
f ✓
g ✗ He refuses to cry in front of them.
h ✓
- 12 Open answers
- 13 a–b Open answers
c Possible answers:
angry – Yes. He is angry with his daughters.
brave – Yes. He is not afraid of a night alone in the middle of a storm.
calm – No. He becomes angry very quickly.
mad – Not yet. He says, 'I shall go mad!'
proud – Yes. Regan says, 'Proud men like him have to learn from their own mistakes.'
unlucky – No. Lear has problems because of his own bad judgement.
wise – No. He thinks that Goneril and Regan's empty words of love are more important than Cordelia's quiet but real love. Also, he still thinks that he can behave like a king, even without a kingdom. He does not seem to learn from his mistakes.
- d Possible answers:
They both believe lies. They both think that their bad children are good. They also think that their good children are bad. Gloucester perhaps seems less selfish than Lear. Gloucester does not seem as mad or as angry as Lear.
- 14 Open answers
- 15 a Lear b does not know c likes d not surprised
e the King f Cornwall g sends h a servant
i Regan j eyes
- 16 a Pleased. He will show the letter to Cornwall and get his father into trouble.
b He wants Lear to go away. He does not want anyone to discover his real name.
c He feels sorry for Tom. He also thinks that Tom is wise.
d Surprised. He thinks that Tom's company is not good enough for Lear.
e Angry with Gloucester. Gloucester seems to be an enemy spy.
f They hate him because he is a spy.
g He does not like them because they wanted to destroy Lear.
h Angry with himself because he believed Edmund's lies about Edgar.
i Unhappy, and possibly afraid that he is going to die.
- 17–19 Open answers
- 20 a Edgar / Gloucester b Oswald / Albany
c Goneril / her kiss for Edmund
d Cordelia / Lear e Regan / Edmund
f Gloucester / the top of the imaginary hill
g Oswald / Gloucester h Edgar / Goneril
i Cordelia / Lear
- 21 Possible answers:
a Gloucester is grateful for Poor Tom's help. He does not know that Poor Tom is really Edgar. Edgar is sad that his father is in pain. He is happy to help him.
b Goneril thinks that Albany is weak. Albany thinks that Goneril is a bad, dishonest woman.
c Gloucester wants to kiss Lear's hand. Lear remembers Gloucester but, in his madness, this does not seem important.
d Oswald wants to kill Gloucester. Gloucester wants Oswald to kill him.
e Cordelia is very happy to see her father. Lear is sorry for his past mistakes. He wants Cordelia to forgive him.

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22 a 10 b 6 c 9 d 2 e 7 f 1 g 8 h 3
i 5 j 4

23 Open answers

24 a Albany b Edmund c Edmund d Goneril
e Edgar f Gloucester g Goneril h Edmund
i Lear

25 a Cordelia is killed by Edmund's soldiers. Edmund wants Lear and Cordelia to die. Then he can marry Regan or Goneril and become king. Edmund is killed by Edgar in a swordfight. Goneril kills herself. Albany, her husband, has her love letter to Edmund. Edgar finally tells Gloucester who he really is. Gloucester's weak heart is filled with too much happiness and sadness, and stops. Lear dies of a broken heart next to Cordelia's dead body. Regan is poisoned by Goneril. Goneril wants Edmund to marry her, not Regan.

b Open answers

26–36 Open answers

Discussion activities key

- Open answers
- Answers: His eyes. Between 1604 and 1605. 26 December 1606. In Stratford-upon-Avon, England. 1564. Stratford-upon-Avon, England. 1616. 1582. Anne Hathaway. Thirty-seven.
- Open answers
- Lear gives Goneril a part of his kingdom full of shadowy forests. Cordelia can say nothing to Lear. The King of France wants to make Cordelia the Queen of France. Edmund tells his father that he hopes his brother's letter is a joke. Goneril's house is in complete disorder because of Lear's knights. Lear says that Goneril must never become a mother. Lear says he is lucky to have another daughter.
- Open answers
- Suggestions: Hitler, Stalin, George III of England, Nero, Caligula, Juana la Loca of Spain.
- Example start of conversation:
Gloucester: I am not a spy. I have never talked to the French.
Regan: What about the letter?
G: I don't know anything about the letter. Maybe someone wrote it to make you think I was a spy, or maybe you wrote it Cornwall.
C: Me! Are you crazy? And why did you send the king to Dover?
G: I want to protect my king.
R: You are going to be punished. We are going to ...

8 Open answers

9 Possible answers for good: Good, pleasant, funny, happy, exciting, honest, lovely, nice, sensible, tidy, warm, wise.

Possible answers for bad: Bad, boring, cold, greedy, selfish, silly, weak.

10 Open answers

11 Possible suggestions: Seven Years War, Hundred Years War, American Revolutionary War, Napoleonic War.

12–13 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

1 a X b X c ✓ d ✓ e ✓ f X g ✓

2 a 3 b 5 c 4 d 1 e 6 f 2

3 a wonderful b urgent c rude d gift
e ready f double g weak

4 a blood b picture c unkindness
d forgiveness e accept f protection

5 a Regan had a letter about the knights.
b Lear and his daughter had a big disagreement.
c The tree saved Edgar from his enemies.
d Goneril sent half the king's knights away.
e Regan didn't know that the king was coming.
f The king was not going to cry.

6 make – an excuse
wave your – arms
follow – orders
do – your best
discover a – crime
receive a – letter
use bad – language
feel a – pain

7 a box > cupboard
b child > madman
c table > chair
d help > destroy
e stomach > side
f stone > sword

8 a Edgar b Lear c Gloucester d Edmund
e Servant f Regan g Cornwall

9 a clothes b strangely c help d up e changed
f flowers g Edgar's brother

10 a Eighty years.
b Oswald.
c They kissed.
d Because she was a woman.
e The people who took out Gloucester's eyes.
f A purse with gold inside it.
g Edgar.

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- 11 a different b secrets c painful d mystery
e remember f poison
- 12 a or b lost c as d forgiving e little
f worst g since h for i best
- 13 a her eyes.
b secret place.
c his sword.
d his father.
e poor madman.
f the ground.

Progress test key

- 1 a 3 b 5 c 6 d 2 e 7 f 10 g 8 h 9
i 1 j 4
- 2 a ✓ b ✓ c ✗ d ✓ e ✓ f ✗ g ✓ h ✗
i ✗ j ✓
- 3 a The King of France b Edmund c Gloucester
d Edgar e King Lear f Goneril g Cornwall
h Albany i Regan j Cordelia
- 4 a surprised b didn't think c Poor d field
e protect f hill g angry h both i didn't want
j mouth
- 5 a enjoy b describe c refused d hurt e hold
f took g waving h remembered i fell j came