

King Lear Activity Pack 3

King Lear is elderly and has three daughters. He decides to split his kingdom between them. The older two (Goneril and Regan) tell him they love him while the youngest one (Cordelia) says such a competition is silly. He gets cross and tells her she must leave. He has a faithful advisor (called Kent) who defends the youngest daughter so he turns him out too. Kent disguises himself as a servant and follows the King. He splits the kingdom into two and says he will split his time between the two daughters' houses. King Lear has a Fool (court jester) who is the only one who can tell him things he doesn't want to hear. He also has a retinue of knights who go everywhere with him. The daughters only really wanted his money and soon start to get angry with him. They turn away his knights and make clear he is not welcome either. In a sub-plot Gloucester has two sons (Edgar with his wife and Edmund from an affair). Edmund pretends to Gloucester that Edgar is trying to kill him.



He goes out onto the moors in a storm, followed by Kent in disguise. The King realises that he has been betrayed by his daughters. Gloucester realises he has been betrayed by Edmund. The King's youngest daughter comes back from where she lives in France. The King realises she truly cares for him. Gloucester realises Edgar truly cares for him. Kent reveals his true identity.

Imagine that you are casting this as a play or a movie and you are writing notes for the casting call. What are you looking for with each of the characters?

Role	Age, characteristics, physical appearance, specific skills
King Lear	
Goneril	
Regan	
Cordelia	
Kent	
Fool	
Gloucester	
Edmund	
Edgar	

Kent has always looked after Cordelia like he was her uncle. When they are both banished, she goes to France and is married. What would he write to her once she was overseas? It can be by letter, email, any form of communication you like.....

There is lots of anger and insults in this play. Shakespeare was great at insults – have a go at creating your own Shakespearean insults....

Shakespeare Insult Kit

To create a Shakespearean insult...

Combine one word from each of the three columns below,
prefaced with "Thou":

Column 1

artless
bawdy
beslubbering
bootless
churlish
cockered
clouted
craven
currish
dankish
dissembling
droning
errant
fawning
fobbing
froward
frothy
gleeking
goatish
gorbellied
impertinent
infectious
jarring
loggerheaded
lumpish
mammering
mangled
mewling
paunchy
pribbling
puking
puny
qualling
rank
reeky
roguish
ruttish
saucy
spleeny
spongy
surly
tottering
unmuzzled
vain
venomed
villainous
warped
wayward
weedy
yeasty

Column 2

base-court
bat-fowling
beef-witted
beetle-headed
boil-brained
clapper-clawed
clay-brained
common-kissing
crook-pated
dismal-dreaming
dizzy-eyed
doghearted
dread-bolted
earth-vexing
elf-skinned
fat-kidneyed
fen-sucked
flap-mouthed
fly-bitten
folly-fallen
fool-born
full-gorged
guts-gripping
half-faced
hasty-witted
hedge-born
hell-hated
idle-headed
ill-breeding
ill-nurtured
knotty-pated
milk-livered
motley-minded
onion-eyed
plume-plucked
pottle-deep
pox-marked
reeling-ripe
rough-hewn
rude-growing
rump-fed
shard-borne
sheep-biting
spur-galled
swag-bellied
tardy-gaited
tickle-brained
toad-spotted
unchin-snouted
weather-bitten

Column 3

apple-john
baggage
barnacle
bladder
boar-pig
bugbear
bum-bailey
canker-blossom
clack-dish
clotpole
coxcomb
codpiece
death-token
dewberry
flap-dragon
flax-wench
flirt-gill
foot-licker
fustilarian
giglet
gudgeon
haggard
harpy
hedge-pig
horn-beast
hugger-mugger
joithead
lewdster
lout
maggot-pie
malt-worm
mammet
measle
minnow
miscreant
moldwarp
mumble-news
nut-hook
pigeon-egg
pignut
puttock
pumpion
ratsbane
scut
skainsmate
strumpet
varlot
vassal
whey-face
wagtail

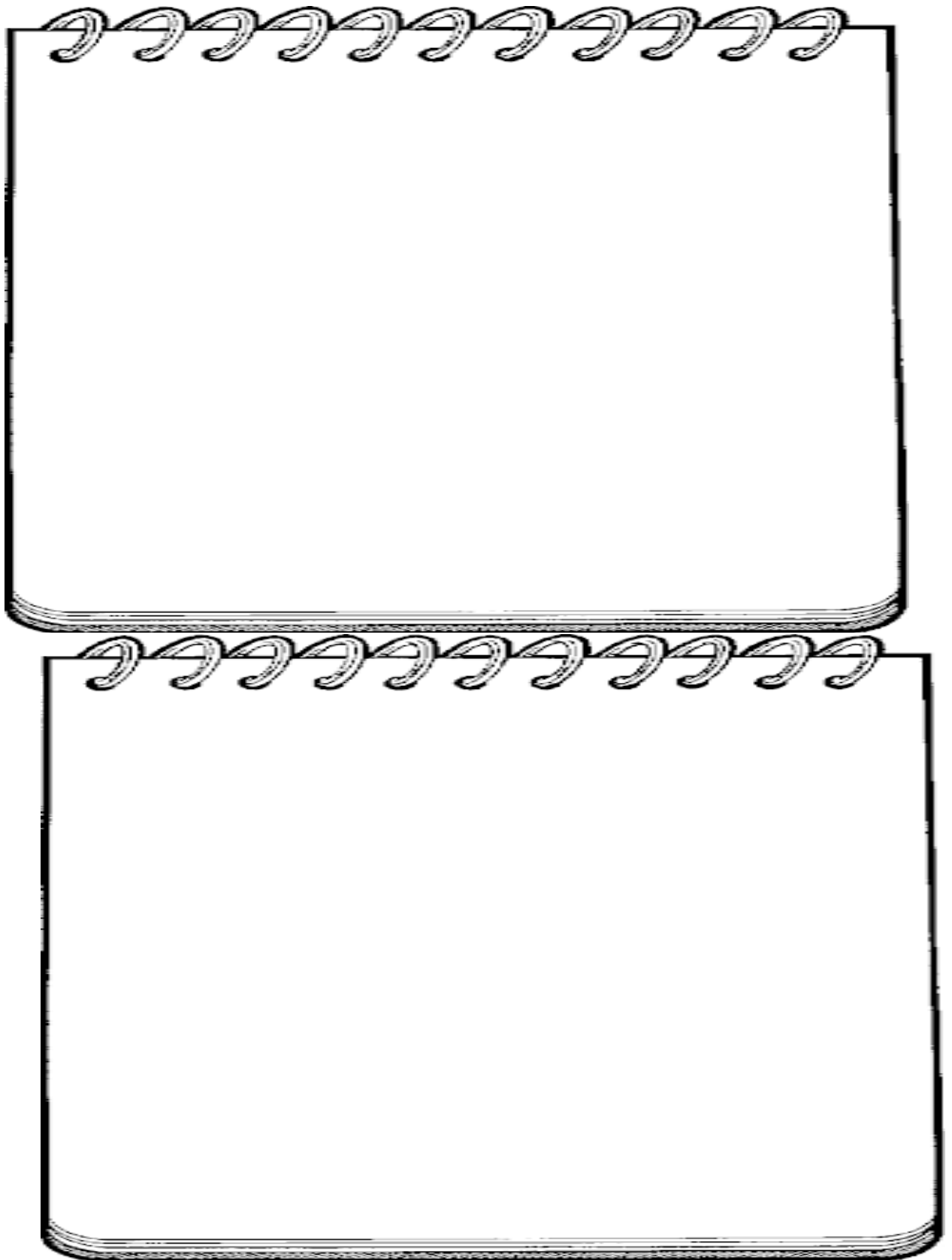
A: 1,3,4,6,8,9,12,14,15,17,18,21,22,24,26

Use this story to create a song, rap or poem, you can add in details as you need them. Be as creative as you like.

Which of these quotes are from King Lear? (answers on page 5)

1. 'This cold night will turn us all to fools and madmen'
2. 'Great men have reaching hands'
3. 'A most poor man, mad tame to Fortune's blows'
4. 'Oh let me kiss that hand'
5. 'Men are men, the best sometimes forget'
6. 'Ask me not what I know'
7. 'His own opinion was his law'
8. 'I know you what you are'
9. 'Come lets away to prison'
10. 'I must be cruel only to be kind'
11. 'Better a witty fool than a foolish wit'
12. 'Pray you now, forget and forgive; I am old and foolish'
13. 'This fellow is wise enough to play the fool'
14. 'We that are young shall never see so much, nor live so long'
15. 'Blow winds, crack your cheeks!'
16. 'If you have tears prepare to shed them now'
17. 'Nothing will come of nothing'
18. 'I prithee daughter do not make me mad'
19. 'My old bones ache'
20. 'Hasty marriage seldom proveth well'
21. 'Poor Tom's a cold'
22. 'You are not worth the dust which the rude wind blows in your face'
23. 'To deliver sweet, sweet, sweet poison for the age's tooth'
24. 'Never, never, never, never, never'
25. 'Conscience does make cowards of us all'
26. 'Why, madam, if I were your father's dog you should not use me so'

If both Regan and Cordelia wrote their account of what happened – what would they put?

The image shows two blank, spiral-bound notebook pages. The top page is oriented horizontally and the bottom page is oriented vertically. Both pages are white with a black spiral binding on the left side. The pages are empty, providing space for writing.