

## King Lear Activity Pack 2

An old King has three daughters. He decides to split his kingdom between them.

The older two tell him they love him while the youngest one 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.

They only really wanted his money and soon start to get cross with him. They turn away his knights and make clear he is not welcome.

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.

## ACTIVITIES –

King Lear seems a bit mad to give away his kingdom. If you were him, what would be the pros and cons of doing it?

Pros	Cons
<i>Eg I don't have to be in charge anymore</i>	<i>Eg I have no house anymore</i>

King Lear sends Kent away, what do you think Kent will say to his mates at the pub that night?

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

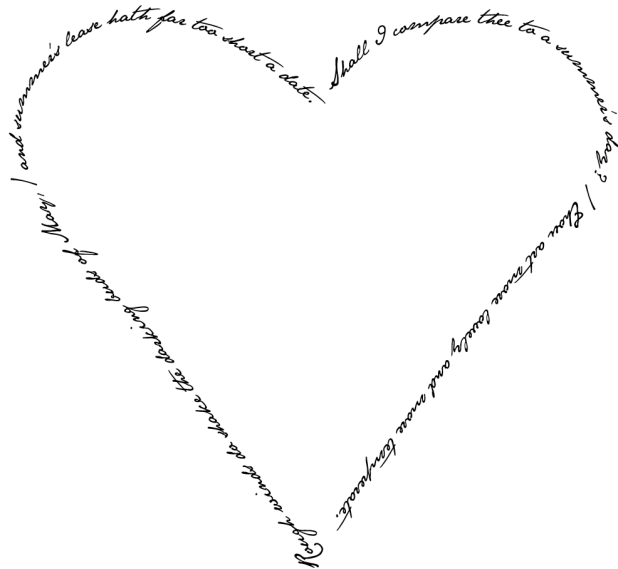
apple-john  
baggage  
barnacle  
bladder  
boar-pig  
bugbear  
bum-bailey  
canker-blossom  
clack-dish  
clotpole  
coxcomb  
codpiece  
death-token  
dewberry  
flap-dragon  
flax-wench  
flirt-gill  
foot-licker  
fustilarian  
giglet  
gudgeon  
haggard  
harpy  
hedge-pig  
horn-beast  
hugger-mugger  
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

King Lear's Fool (Jester) is the one who often tells him the truth. He tells him

Mark it, uncle.

Have more than you showest,  
Speak less than you knowest,  
Lend less than you owest,  
Ride more than you goest,  
Learn more than you trowest,  
Set less than you throwest,  
Leave your drink and your whore  
And keep in-a-door,  
And you shall have more  
Than two tens to a score.

Can you turn this into a visual image from the play – writing the words in the shape of something such as a crown or a map? Like these examples of poem images.....



## Example of Concrete Poem

- Bird #3  
by Don J. Carlson
- Poe's  
raven told  
him nothing nevermore  
and Vincent's circling  
crows were a threat to destroy  
sunlight. Now I saw a bird, black with a yellow  
beak, orange rubber legs  
pecking to kill the  
lawn, storm bird  
hates with claw,  
evil beak,  
s  
u  
n  
and eye



Imagine how the story ends – what happens when King Lear and his youngest daughter are reunited? And his friend Kent tells him that he has been with him the whole way through? And Gloucester finds that Edgar loves him? Write the ending – either as a play with speeches for the characters or as a part of a novel.....