

## King Lear: character study

Copy the following quotations onto separate pieces of paper. Students will:

Put them in the correct order, as they occur during the play, then answer the following questions in relation to each quotation:

- What does this quotation reveal about Lear?
- How is it representative of his state of mind when he says it?
- What other ideas do they connect with?

"only we shall retain the name, all th'additions to a king." (I.i.137)

"I did her wrong" (I.v.24)

"To take 't again perforce! Monster ingratitude!" (I.v.37)

"on my knees I beg that you'll vouchsafe me rainment, bed and food" (II.iv.152)

"O, reason not the need!" (II.ii.453)

"Here I stand your slave, a poor, infirm, weak and despised old man." (III.ii.20)

"O, that way madness lies, let me shun that; no more of that." (III.iv.21)

"Poor naked wretches, whereso'er you are, That bide the pelting of this pitiless storm,"  
(III.iv.28)

"trouble him not, his wits are gone." (III.vi.84)

"robes and furred gowns hide all. plate sin with gold and the strong lance of justice  
hurtless breaks" (IV.vi.161)

"pray you now, forget and forgive: I am old and foolish." (IV.vii.84)

"Come, let's away to prison; we two will sing like birds i'the cage." (V.iii.9)

"Why should a dog, a horse, a rat have life and thou no breath at all?" (V.iii.305)

"only we shall retain the name, all th'additions  
to a king." (I.i)

---

"I did her wrong" (I.v)

---

"To take 't again perforce! Monster ingratitude!"  
(I.v)

---

"on my knees I beg that you'll vouchsafe me  
rainment, bed and food" (II.iv)

---

"O, reason not the need!" (II.iv)

---

"Here I stand your slave, a poor, infirm, weak  
and despised old man." (III.ii)

---

"O, that way madness lies, let me shun that; no  
more of that." (III.iv)

---

"Poor naked wretches, whereso'er you are, That  
bide the pelting of this pitiless storm," (III.iv)

---

"trouble him not, his wits are gone." (III.vi)

---

"robes and furred gowns hide all. plate sin with  
gold and the strong lance of justice hurtless  
breaks" (IV.vi)

---

"pray you now, forget and forgive: I am old and  
foolish." (IV.vii)

---

"Come, let's away to prison; we two will sing  
like birds i'the cage." (V.iii)

---

"Why should a dog, a horse, a rat have life and  
thou no breath at all?" (V.iii)

---