

AP Literature and Composition

Required Summer Assignment

To all rising AP Literature and Composition Students:

Purchase copies of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston and *King Lear* by William Shakespeare.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Read the novel and note the subject matter, characterization, diction, and style the author uses. **Be prepared for an in-class assessment when the course begins.**



King Lear by William Shakespeare

Read the play and complete the study guide that will familiarize you with Shakespeare's subject matter, characterization, language, and style. **You should have your study guide completed when you come to class.**

King Lear Act I

Explain why

1. Gloucester “so often blushed to acknowledge” Edmund.
2. Lear decides to divide his kingdom among his three daughters.
3. Lear asks his daughters to proclaim their love for him.
4. Lear reacts so violently at Cordelia’s statement that she can love according to her bond, “no more, no less.”
5. Burgundy doesn’t accept Cordelia as his bride.
6. France does accept Cordelia as his bride.
7. Lear’s behavior toward Cordelia confuses Goneril and Regan.
8. Edmund forges a letter in Edgar’s handwriting.
9. Goneril tells Oswald to “come slack of former service.”
10. Kent disguises himself.
11. Lear curses Goneril.
12. Lear is afraid at the end of Act I.

King Lear Act II

2.1

1. What news does Curran give Edmund?
2. How does Edmund use this information to further his plan against Edgar?
3. Why does Edmund advise Edgar to draw and pretend to fight with him?
4. What does Edmund do to further convince Gloucester of Edgar’s evil intentions?
5. What is the judgment that Gloucester pronounces on Edgar after Edmund’s explanation of the preceding events?
6. What does Gloucester promise Edmund?
7. What is Cornwall and Regan’s reaction to Gloucester’s plight?
8. What do they promise him? Edmund?
9. What are Cornwall and Regan’s purposes in coming to visit Gloucester?

2.2

1. Why does Kent pick a fight with Oswald?
2. How does Oswald react to Kent’s insults? How does he change when Cornwall and Regan are present?
3. How does Kent’s real rank affect his action in this scene?
4. How does Kent offend Cornwall and Regan? Why?
5. Why is punishing Kent in the stocks an insult to Lear?
6. What does this action show us about the attitudes of Cornwall and Regan toward Lear?
7. Why does Shakespeare show us these attitudes before Lear knows anything about them?
8. How does Gloucester react to the idea of the stocks? Why doesn’t he demand that Kent be freed?
9. Before Kent sleeps, what does he read? How is the dramatically important to the plot?

2.3

1. What disguise does Edgar take to prevent being discovered?
2. How do the disguises of Kent and Edgar work to reinforce a theme of the play?

2.4

1. How does Lear react to finding Kent in the stocks?
2. What does the fool indicate has happened to most of the king's gentlemen?
3. What is Cornwall and Regan's first response to being summoned to Lear? How does Lear react to their responses?
4. How does Lear first greet Regan?
5. Why does he at first ignore the question of Kent and the punishment in the stocks?
6. What gesture does Regan make to show Lear where her sympathies lie?
7. Why is Regan's denial of Lear even worse than Goneril's?
8. What do Lear's words "I gave you all" tell us about him?
9. What does Lear's attempt to fall back on Goneril's offer tell us about him?
10. Reread Lear's protest which begins, "O, reason not the need!" What ideas does this speech stress? What is man's true need?
11. How is Lear's pride so agonizingly embarrassed in the previous speech?
12. How does Shakespeare portray the heartlessness of Lear's daughters effectively at the end of this scene?
13. Recall Lear's words "Nothing will come of nothing." How do these words relate to this scene?
14. What is the dramatic significance of the impending storm?
15. How is the dramatic timing of the appearance of the storm in nature effective?

King Lear Act III

3.1—a heath

1. Explain what the gentleman reports that Lear is doing.
2. What is the fool doing?
3. What does Kent report about Cornwall and Albany?
4. What does Kent report about the French troops?
5. What does Kent tell the gentleman to do?
6. What does Kent give the gentleman to give Cordelia?

3.2—another part of the heath

1. Explain what Lear wants whirlpools to do.
2. Explain what he wants thunderbolts to do.
3. Explain what Lear wants thunder to do.
4. What does Lear mean when he says "I am a man / More sinned against than sinning."?
5. What does Kent entreat Lear to do?

3.3—Gloucester's castle

1. What does Gloucester tell Edmund he has been instructed to do?
2. What information does Gloucester tell Edmund?
3. What does Edmund decide to do with the information?

3.4—before a hovel on the heath

1. What is on Lear's mind?
2. Who else is in the hovel?
3. How does Edgar act?
4. What does Lear wonder as to why Edgar acts this way?
5. What does Gloucester say he has come to do?

3.5—inside Gloucester's castle

1. What does Cornwall believe about Gloucester?
2. What does Edmund give Cornwall?
3. What does Cornwall promise Edmund?

3.6—building near Gloucester's castle

1. What does Lear pretend to do with Goneril and Regan?
2. What does Lear imagine Regan does?
3. What does Lear wish to happen to Regan?
4. What does Gloucester say he has heard?
5. Where does Gloucester tell them to go for safety?

3.7—inside Gloucester's castle

1. What news does Cornwall give about France?
2. What does Regan suggest they do to Gloucester?
3. What does Goneril suggest they do to him? pluck
4. What news does Oswald bring?
5. What does Regan do to Gloucester and what does she call him?
6. Why does Gloucester say he sent Lear to Dover?
7. What does Cornwall do to Gloucester?
8. What does Regan tell Gloucester when he calls Edmund for help?
9. What do the serving men do?

King Lear Act IV

4.1—a heath

1. What good does Edmund think it is "to be worst."?
2. How long has the Old Man been Gloucester's and Gloucester's father's tenant?
3. What does Gloucester mean by "I stumbled when I saw."?
4. What does Gloucester wish?
5. What does Gloucester mean by "As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods. They kill us for their sport."?
6. What does Gloucester tell the Old Man to do?
7. What does Gloucester want Edgar to do?
8. What five fiends does Edgar say possessed him?
9. Where does Gloucester want Edgar to lead him to once they get to Dover?

4.2—outside Duke of Albany's palace

1. How has Albany changed?
2. Where does Goneril send Edmund?
3. What does Goneril give Edmund?
4. What does Albany call Goneril and Regan?
5. What does Goneril call Albany?
6. What does Albany say he'd like to do with his hands?
7. What news does a gentleman bring?
8. To what does Albany attribute Cornwall's death?
9. What does Albany vow?

4.3—The French camp near Dover

1. Where has France gone and why?
2. How did Cordelia react to the news about her father's treatment?
3. Why does Lear not want to see Cordelia?

4.4—The French camp near Dover

1. What does Cordelia say Lear was wearing when he was last seen?
2. According to the doctor, what has Lear not had enough of?
3. What news does the messenger bring?

4.5—Inside Gloucester's castle

1. Why does Regan feel it was "great ignorance" to blind Gloucester?
2. What does Regan suspect about Goneril?
3. What does Regan instruct Oswald to give to Edmund?
4. What does Regan say should be done to Gloucester?

4.6—Country near Dover

1. What does Gloucester notice about Edgar's speech?
2. What does Edgar describe to Gloucester?
3. What does Gloucester do when he gets to the "cliff"?
4. Whom does Gloucester think led him to the "cliff"?
5. Whom does Lear recognize?
6. According to the Gentleman, what is "a sight most pitiful"?
7. What does Edgar do to Oswald?
8. In her letter to Edmund, what does Goneril demand that he do?

4.7—Tent in the French camp; Lear on a bed

1. What does Lear take Cordelia to be?
2. How old is Lear?
3. What does Lear ask of Cordelia?
4. Who leads Cornwall's troop

King Lear Act V

5.1—the British camp, near Dover

1. What does Edmund mean by "honored love"?
2. What does Edgar give Albany?
3. According to Edmund, what does Albany intend for King Lear and Cordelia?

5.2—a field between the two camps

1. What news does Edgar give Gloucester?

5.3—the British camp near Dover

1. Explain what Lear thinks he and Cordelia will do in prison?
2. Explain the contents of the note Edmund gives the captain.
3. How does Albany regard Edmund?
4. What does Regan say to defend Edmund?
5. How does Goneril praise Edmund?
6. For what crime does Albany arrest? Edmund,
7. What is Regan sick from?
8. What happens on the third sound of the trumpet?
9. Explain what happened to Gloucester when Edgar
10. Who comforted Edgar?
11. Explain what Goneril does after she poisons Regan.
12. What one act of good does Edmund attempt? save Cordelia,
13. Explain whether King Lear is mad or sane in his last appearance. answers vary