



SHAKESPEARE'S THEATRE

INTRODUCTORY TASK 3: *KING LEAR* (c. 1605)

Please relate the following characters to each other in order to build the general structure of the plot:

Lear / Edgar / Regan / France / Albany / Cornwall / Gloucester / Gonerill / Edmond /
Cordelia / Kent / Oswald / Fool

Which act do the following events belong to?

1. Gonerill and Regan join forces and ask Lear to get rid of his knights
2. Gonerill begins to ignore Lear and to make him unwelcome at her house
3. Gloucester is blinded by Cornwall and Regan and he realises that Edmond has betrayed him
4. Having relapsed into madness, Lear enters with Cordelia dead in his arms
5. Kent, Edgar and Albany are left alive and finally Edgar accepts the crown
6. Kent defends Cordelia and Lear banishes him
7. Edmond, about to die, cancels the order that Cordelia should be hanged
8. Kent and Gloucester gossip about the king's decision to divide the kingdom, and Gloucester jokes about Edmond's conception
9. Lear loses his mind on the heath under the storm
10. Cordelia reveals that she holds no grudge against Lear and that she will help him
11. Lear leaves Gloucester's castle in a rage and a storm begins
12. Lear puts his daughters through the 'love test', and each daughter professes how much they love him
13. Edmond is introduced by means of a soliloquy where he rages against his bastardy
14. Lear and Gloucester are reunited
15. Gloucester is deluded into believing that Edgar has plotted against him
16. Lear meets Poor Tom and the 'naked wretches' at the hut and realises that he has not helped the poor enough
17. The French army has been defeated and Lear and Cordelia are sent to prison
18. Cordelia refuses to exaggerate her love for Lear and he disowns her
19. Gloucester tells Edmond that he will help Lear, and Edmond decides to betray him by informing Cornwall about it
20. Gonerill asks Lear to get rid of his knights
21. Cordelia and Lear reunite and Lear momentarily recovers his sanity after a long sleep
22. Gonerill poisons Regan, Edgar defeats Edmond and Gonerill kills herself
23. Edgar loses his identity as a nobleman and disguises himself as Poor Tom, a Bedlam beggar

ACT I	ACT II	ACT III	ACT IV	ACT V