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## King lear shmoop

Edgar, dressed as Poor Tom, lurks outside in the winter. He consoles himself with the knowledge that when he's hit the bottom, at least it can't get any worse. Then, of course, Edg... Page 2KENT Good my lord- LEAR Peace, Kent. 135 He did not know between the dragon and his wrath. I loved her the most and I thought she set my rest To her kind of kindergarten. Cordelia. Therefore, and avoid my gaze!-So be my grave my peace, as here I give 140 His father's heart from her.-Call France. Who's moving? Call Burgundy. The attendant's leaving. Cornwall and Nakazenka, with the shed of my two daughters spends the third. Let pride take it, which says simplicity. 145 I invest you together with my power, The Preeminence, and all the great effectsThis army with majesty. Our alone on a monthly course,Subject to a hundred knightsBy support you, our abode 150Make with you will be mistaken again. Only we will keep the name and all those that are complementary to the king. Influence, income, execution of others. Belovéd's sons, be yours, which will confirm this corporal part between you. 155KENT Royal Lear,Whom I have ever honored as my king, loved as my father, as my master followed, as my great patron thought in my prayers- LEARKloták is bent and drawn. Make from a shaft. 160KENTLet it rather fall off, although the fork invaderegion of my heart. Be Kent when Lear's crazy. What would you do, old man? You think you're going to be afraid to talk if you flatter your bows too much? To the simplicity of honor 165, when majesty falls on folly. Book your condition, and in your best control checkThis disgusting rash. Answer my life my judgment. 170The youngest daughter does not love you the least,Even those with an empty heart, whose low soundsSome time are not hollow. LEAR Kent, on your life, not anymore. I've never held kentny's life, but as a 175K pawn against my enemies, no fear of losing, your safety is motive. LEAR Out of my sight! Everyone's in shock. Kent, one of Lear's trusted advisers, is trying to intervene on Cordelia's behalf, but Lear orders both Cordelia and Kent out of sight. Page 3Business Edmund, Bastard.EDMUNDThou, Nature, art my goddess. To your lawThe services are bound. So I would have an istand in the plague habit, and allowthe testimony of nations to prepare me For being about twelve or fourteen moonshines 5Lag brother? Why a bastard? Why the base, when my dimensions are equally compact, my mind is as generous and my shape as the true problem of honest madam? Why brand them uss base, with baseness, bastards, base, 10base, who, in the sly stealth of nature, make More composition and wild qualityThan doth in boring, musty, tired bedGo to th' creates a whole strain of fops 15Got 'tween sleep and wake up? Well, legitimate Edgar, I must have your land. Our father's love is with the bastard Edmund, who is legitimate. Okay Legitimate. Well, my legitimate if this letter speed 20A my invention is succeeding, Edmund baseShall top th' legitimate. I'm growing, I'm thriving. Now, gods, stand up for the bastards! Edmund, Gloucester's illegitimate son, is angry. He complains about how society treats younger brothers and illegitimate children. He's as smart, attractive and talented as his brother Edgar, but when Gloucester dies, Edgar will gain possession and an important position. Edmund's not getting anything. Edmund also insists that given that his parents had such an amazing and greedy time in bed when he was conceived, he is much better than any person legitimately conceived in a musty tired bed. He says one way or another, Edmund gets his brother's land, and we doubt he's interested in a share of the time. Finally, Edmund calls on the gods to stand up for the bastards! (You don't know anything, Jon Snow.) (Useful tip: If you're getting Edmund and Edgar confused already, here's a tip: Think G for good-Edgar is a good brother, and M for Malice-Edmund is a harmful one.) Page 4 Source: Folger Shakespeare Library Enter Goneril and Oswald, her Steward.GONERIL My father slammed my master for chidingof his fool? OSWALD Ay, ma'am. GonerilBy day and night will wrong me. Every hour it's one gross crime or another 5This puts us all in contention. I can't stand it. His knights grow riotous, and he himself upbrads usAt every little thing. When he gets back from the hunt, I won't talk to him. Tell me I'm sick. If you come slack former services, 10You will do well. It's my part, I'll answer. It's not going well at Goneril Castle. She took her first shift as dad's babysitter, and it turns out Lear's a lousy guest. Lear seems to have punched one of Goneril's servants for being rude to his Fool. His entourage - a group of hundreds of knights - is also a noisy bunch, and Lear continues to act as if he is in charge, even though he has more or less retired. Goneril's had enough. She told Oswald to tell her father she didn't want to talk to him when he got back from the hunt. If they're rude to him for a while, he'll get a message and she'll deal with the consequences. He's coming, ma'am. I can hear him. GONERILPut on what tired negligence, please you and your colleagues. I'd like it to be questioned. If it doesn't taste good, leave it to my sister, 15Thus mind and mine, that I know they don't care, must not be outvoted. Idle old mant would still er control those authoritiesThis gave away. In my lifetime, old fools turn cats and must be used 20s cheques as oddities when they are seen. Remember what I said. All right, ma'am. GonerilAnd let his knights have cooler views among you. 25What's growing out of it, no matter what. Advise your colleagues so. I would breed from this occasion, and I will.That I can speak. I'll write straight to my sister, my very course. Get ready for dinner. They're going in different directions. When Oswald says he hears Lear coming, Goneril continues to order him to completely neglect his father. If Lear doesn't like the way she treats him, she can go to her sister's house, Regan's house, where she'll get more of the same. Regan can't stand his stupidity either. He says that old men are like children again, and therefore can be easily manipulated. Before he leaves, he tells Oswald to make sure that he and the rest of the staff are neglecting Lear's knights. She wants to make sure her dad and his buddies get a message, and when she complains, she'll be ready to give him a piece of her mind. Switch Nav King Lear is everyone's favorite Shakespearean tragedy about an aging king who decides to become a nudist. Er- hold on. King Lear is Shakespeare's scariest tragedy about a nobleman who gouged out his eyes, in the style of Oberygn Martell. He still doesn't get all the relevant points. Okay: King Lear is a super-tragic game from some guy named Bill about how, 50-66.6% of the time, your offspring tries to kill you. That's not good. There's no way to be pitful about King Lear. There's a Game of Thrones-level world injury going on in this tragedy. There is also an encyclopedia britannica-level amount of British history. And enough family dysfunction for Sigmund Freud to spat out his cigar in fear. Oh, and probably zillion eloquent quotes quotes-that's Shakespeare we're dealing with, after all. King Lear is a tragedy of the great Billy himself, William Shakespeare. The game centers on an aging king who decides to divide his kingdom between his three daughters (Goneril, Regan and Cordelia) to avoid conflict after his death. Early retirement and the division of the kingdom turns out to be a big no-no. Lear's actions will eventually destroy his family, tear apart the kingdom and cause a great old war, leaving almost everyone to die at the end of the game. King Lear was written between 1604 and 1606 after King James I of England (also known as King James VI of Scotland) ascended the English throne (1603). (FYI-King James just happened to attend a performance of the game in Whitehall on December 26, 1606.) Over the past few decades, the madly brilliant King Lear has been regarded as one of Shakespeare's greatest works, perhaps even better than Hamlet. Oddly enough, that wasn't always the case. After the English Civil War (1642-1651), the play was considered a theatrical flop. The excessive depiction of cruelty and suffering in Shakespeare's play (notably the violent blinding of Gloucester, Lear's descent into madness and the tragic death of Cordelia) was considered too much. It seems that after a long and exhausting English Civil War, the audience was looking for something a little more positive and less Enter the playwright Nahum Tate, who rewrote Shakespeare's play in 1681, so it would have a happy ending. (We're not kidding —he's made some big changes.) In Tate's version, Lear and Cordelia live, and Cordelia falls in love and marrys Edgar. (Tate was weak.) We don't want to ruin the ending for you, but that's not what happens in Shakespeare's original. But in the 1960s, people were ready for a raw, real Lear. After the Holocaust and two world wars, the vision of human life presented in King Lear did not seem very cynical — it seemed quite realistic. The graphic violence of the game suddenly seemed appropriate. Like Lear's suggestion that the gods either don't exist or if they do, they like to torture people. And while you might not be able to Netflix's star-studded version of King Lear (why not, Hollywood? Why not?!), adaptations of Lear are everywhere you turn. Elements of the play have been used in a number of other lyrics, from the hugely important Japanese film classics such as Ran Akira Kurosawa to 20th Century American literary classics such as Jane Smiley's Thousand Acres, to Beattle's song I Am The Walrus. It may have a rocky past (hey, like Moby-Dick), but given the width of its influence-not to mention its shine-king Lear is here to stay. Yo, how about this: it's Shakespeare.And if it doesn't impress you, try this on size: it's a Shakespeare tragedy. It's not one of his fusty history or cheesy comedies (not that they're something to sneez at, but tragedies are in their class). And if it doesn't impress you (the tough crowd): it's considered by many to be Shakespeare's best tragedy, outranking ever Hamlet. It basically makes it-according to some very clever illuminated critics-most important play by the most important playwright who has ever written in English.Yup. If it doesn't activate it must read now! part of the cerebral cortex (hey, we're lit nerds, not neurosurgeons), we don't know what's going to happen. Seriously. We have no idea. So why is it so brain-shaking important reading? Isn't King Lear just a game about a senile old man who makes a series of bad political decisions until almost everyone ends up dead? King Lear is much more than Lear's political crisis. When it comes down to it, family relationships-not just politics-are at the heart of the game. The famous literary critic Stephen Greenblatt writes that the focus of Shakespeare's tragedy is Lear's folly, which is tantamount to his decision to hastily exorcite the only child who truly loves him (Introduction to King Lear, Norton Edition). In other words, when Big Papa Lear foresays his loving daughter, Cordelia, he pretty much sets in motion the events that follow-Goneril and Regan betray their father (they blow him up in the cold before continuing to fight each other over a guy), Lear becomes homeless and wanders around the kingdom, the war erupts, Goneril poisons her sister, Regan, and then kills herself, Cordelia is unjustly killed at the behest of her sister's lover, Lear dies heartbroken and so on. In other words, Lear's whole family ends up dead. So Shakespeare is telling us to be nice to our families? You bet. It also tells us that family drama is universal and premature. So after you read Lear, you will definitely want to give your annoying little sister a hug instead of trying to steal her evil friend—you will also want to reconsider your plan to poison your sibling and throw your aging father on the street after giving you your own kingdom. Or, you know, put on a happy face on another (predictably insane) Thanksgiving family. King Lear, 1987Jean-Luc Godard directed this strange Sci-Fi re-featuring Don Learo and his daughter, Cordelia (played by Molly Ringwald). King Lear, 1971King Lear, directed by Peter Brook, stars Paul Scofield as King Lear. This bleathed, existentialist interpretation is one of the most influential modern productions of the play. Thousand Acres, a Jane Smiley novel based on King Lear, won a Pulitzer Prize and was later made into a film starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Jessica Lange. He moans a lot. Edmund, Edgar and Gloucester are Buddies Actors playing Edmund, Edgar and Gloucester answering questions about their characters. Watch King Lear (PBS Great Performances)Ian McKellen (aka Gandalf) portray King Lear in this TV version of the play, directed by Trevor Nunn.AudioFamous Shakespeare Scholars Talk about King LearGot 45 minutes? Listen to the BBC In Our Time podcast on King Lear. Host Melvyn Bragg talks about the play with famous Shakespeare scholars Jonathan Bate, Catherine Belsey and Katherine Duncan Jones.Reduced Shakespeare Company Lear in 34 SecondsE celebrate the 250th in 34 seconds. Listen to a podcast McKellen's performance as NPR's LearThis All Things Behind the 2007 episode discusses Ian McKellen's stage performance.'Fool' Funny, Ribald Retelling Of 'King Lear'Author Christopher Moore discusses his re-telling of King Lear on Talk of the Nation.ImagesKing Lear from past Royal Shakespeare Company performances. Shakespeare Illustrated: King LearThis website presents famous images of scenes and characters of the game. William Blake and Cordelia in Prison (1779)Check out this pen and ink and water color poet (and artist!) William Blake, compliments tate museum.A Series of King Lear-inspired artin this selection of great art, which was inspired by King Lear, the pieces were collected from a diverse range of artists, styles and time periods, and were arranged in such a way as to help summarize the (chronologically) game. ArticlesDiagnostic LearThis article chronicles doctors' attempts to find out what mental illness Lear might have had. How? No, Express its lighter purpose The New York Times bashes Kevin Kline's 2007 theatrical production of King Lear.Play ReviewA thousand review of Ian McKellen's 2007 production of King Lear.OtherRoyal Shakespeare Company guide to King LearThe Royal Shakespeare Company has prepared a guide to King Lear. Thanks, RSC. Join today and you'll never see them again. By entering your email address, you agree to receive emails from Shmoop and verify that you are over 13 years of age.