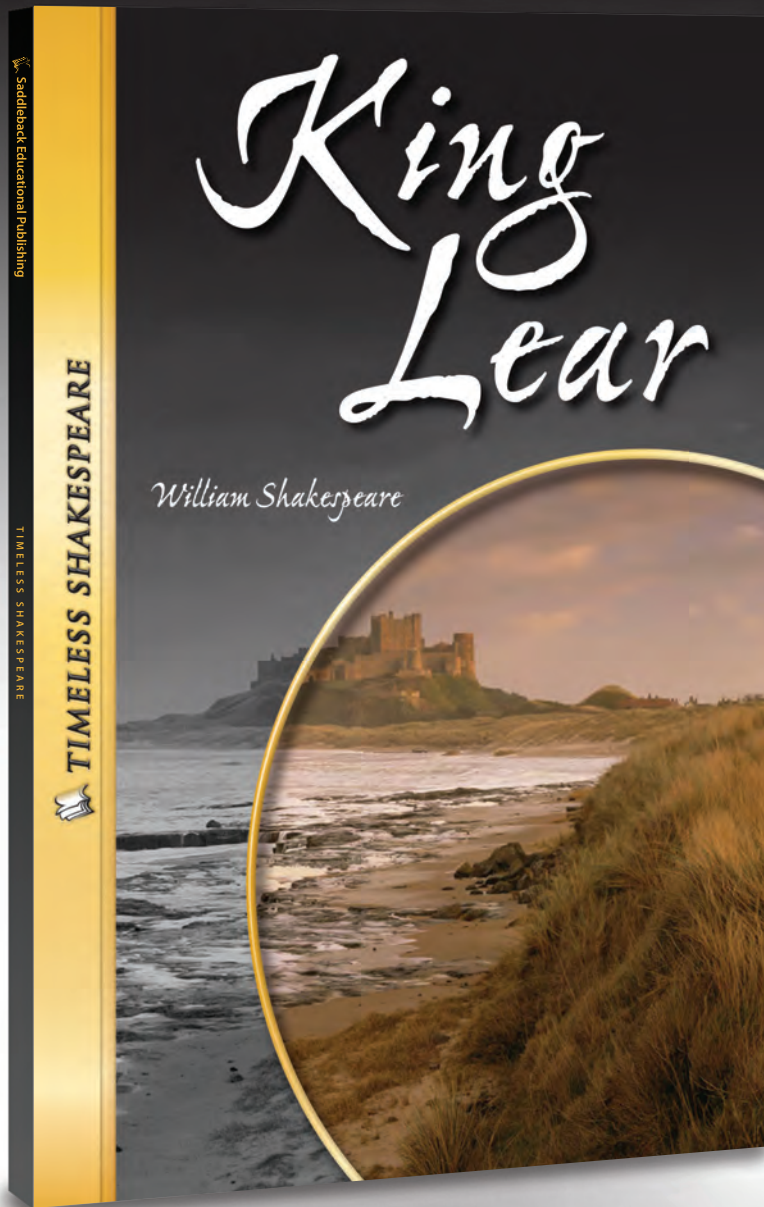




TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

# STUDY GUIDE



# | Contents |

Notes to the Teacher . . . . .	4
Facts About the Author . . . . .	5
Facts About the Times . . . . .	5
Facts About the Characters . . . . .	6
Summaries by Act . . . . .	7
Literary Glossary . . . . .	10
Answer Key . . . . .	12

## **ACT EXERCISES**

<b>1</b> Comprehension Check, Act 1 . . . . .	14
<b>2</b> Words and Meanings, Act 1 . . .	15
<b>3</b> Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 1 . . . . .	16
<b>4</b> Cause and Effect, Act 1 . . . .	17
<b>5</b> Analyzing Dialogue, Act 1 . . .	18
<b>6</b> Comprehension Check, Act 2 . . . . .	19
<b>7</b> Words and Meanings, Act 2 . . .	20
<b>8</b> Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 2 . . . . .	21
<b>9</b> Character Study, Act 2 . . . . .	22
<b>10</b> Language Lab, Act 2 . . . . .	23
<b>11</b> Comprehension Check, Act 3 . . . . .	24
<b>12</b> Words and Meanings, Act 3 . . .	25
<b>13</b> Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 3 . . . . .	26
<b>14</b> Language Lab, Act 3 . . . . .	27

<b>15</b> Sequence of Events, Act 3 . . . .	28
<b>16</b> Comprehension Check, Act 4 . . . . .	29
<b>17</b> Words and Meanings, Act 4 . .	30
<b>18</b> Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 4 . . . . .	31
<b>19</b> Character Study, Act 4 . . . . .	32
<b>20</b> Comprehension Check, Act 5 . . . . .	33
<b>21</b> Words and Meanings, Act 5 . . .	34
<b>22</b> Synonyms and Antonyms, Act 5 . . . . .	35
<b>23</b> Language Lab, Act 5 . . . . .	36
<b>24</b> Cause and Effect, Act 5 . . . .	37

## **END-OF-PLAY EXERCISES**

<b>25</b> Sequence of Events . . . . .	38
<b>26</b> Final Exam, Part 1 . . . . .	39
<b>26</b> Final Exam, Part 2 . . . . .	40

## **UNIVERSAL EXERCISES**

<b>27</b> Beyond the Text . . . . .	41
<b>28</b> Plot Study . . . . .	42
<b>29</b> Theme Analysis . . . . .	43
<b>30</b> Character Study . . . . .	44
<b>31</b> Vocabulary Study . . . . .	45
<b>32</b> Glossary Study . . . . .	46
<b>33</b> Critical Review, Part 1 . . . . .	47
<b>33</b> Critical Review, Part 2 . . . . .	48

## TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

### NOTES TO THE TEACHER

#### THE PROGRAM

*Timeless Shakespeare* were expressly designed to help students with limited reading ability gain access to some of the world's greatest literature. While retaining the essence and stylistic "flavor" of the original, each *Timeless Shakespeare* has been expertly adapted to a reading level that never exceeds grade 4.0.

An ideal introduction to later, more in-depth investigations of the original works, *Timeless Shakespeare* utilize a number of strategies to ensure the involvement of reluctant readers: airy, uncomplicated page design, shortened sentences, easy-reading type style, elimination of archaic words and spellings, shortened total book length, and handsome illustrations.

#### THE STUDY GUIDES

The *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guides* provide a wealth of reproducible support materials to help students extend the learning experience. Features include critical background notes on both the author and the times, character descriptions, chapter summaries, and seven "universal" exercises which may be used to follow up the reading of any *Timeless Shakespeare* novel or play.

In addition to the universal exercises, 27 title-specific exercises are included to review, test, and enrich students' comprehension as well as their grasp of important vocabulary and concepts. All reproducible, the worksheets provided

for Shakespeare's plays are designed to be used act-by-act as the student's reading of the play proceeds. Several exercises are provided for each act. One always focuses on key vocabulary. Others include a simple comprehension check and treatment of an important literary concept such as character analysis, point of view, inference, or figurative language. A three-page final exam is also included in every *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guide*.

#### USING THE STUDY GUIDES

Before assigning any of the reproducible exercises, be sure each student has a personal copy of the *Glossary* and the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times*. Students will need to be familiar with many of the literary terms in order to complete the worksheets. Obviously, the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times* lend themselves to any number of writing, art, or research projects you may wish to assign.

The title-specific exercises may be used as a springboard for class discussions or role-playing. Alternatively, you may wish to assign some exercises as homework and others as seatwork during the closing minutes of a class period.

All exercises in this Guide are designed to accommodate independent study as well as group work. The occasional assignment of study partners or competitive teams often enhances interest and promotes creativity.

## **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

(1564–1616)

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the finest poet and playwright who ever lived. Yet he was the son of illiterate parents and never attended college!

Much of this remarkable man's life is shrouded in mystery. He had been dead almost a hundred years before anyone wrote a short account of his life. But we do know that his mother, Mary Arden, was the daughter of a prosperous farmer. His father, John Shakespeare, was a successful glovemaker who also traded in wool, hides, and grain. They lived in an English market town called Stratford-on-Avon, where William was born in 1564. Their house still stands.

Until the age of 13 or 14, Shakespeare probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he read the great Latin classics of Cicero, Virgil, and Seneca. Some stories say that he had to leave school early because of his father's financial difficulties. But there is no official record of his life until 1582, when he married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18. By 1585, he and Anne had three children. No one knows for

sure what happened to him during the next seven years, although one account says that he was a schoolmaster. In 1592, however, records reveal that he was working in London as both an actor and a playwright. By that year, he had published two popular poems and written at least three plays.

Records from various sources show that Shakespeare became wealthy. In 1597, he bought one of the grandest houses in Stratford. (It had 10 fireplaces!) The next year he bought 10 percent of the stock in the handsome Globe Theater and a fine house in London. His artistic life was very busy and productive. His theatrical company, known as the King's Men, presented a variety of plays, week after week. It is thought that he rehearsed in the mornings, acted in the afternoons, and wrote at night.

After 1612, he spent most of his time in Stratford with his family. He died there, at the age of 52, on April 23, 1616. The tomb of the great literary genius still stands at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.

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### **FACTS ABOUT THE TIMES**

#### **In 1564, when Shakespeare was born...**

About 100,000 people lived in London; the horse-drawn coach was introduced in England; the great Italian sculptor and painter, Michelangelo, died; an outbreak of plague killed more than 20,000 Londoners.

#### **In 1616, when Shakespeare died...**

Sir Walter Raleigh began his search for El Dorado; tobacco was becoming a popular crop in Virginia; Pocahontas died; the Catholic church forbade Galileo from conducting any further scientific investigations.

## KING LEAR

### FACTS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

**KING LEAR** the aging British monarch (father of Goneril, Regan, and Cordelia) whose bad judgment and arrogance eventually dooms his family and the security of his kingdom

**THE KING OF FRANCE** successful suitor for Cordelia's hand in marriage who later helps Cordelia save her father

**GONERIL** Lear's eldest daughter and Albany's wife; a ruthless and scheming woman who conspires with her sister, Regan, to strip Lear of all power, pride, and dignity—even leading an armed revolt against her father

**THE DUKE OF ALBANY** Goneril's husband, who stays true to his brave and decent nature

**REGAN** Lear's second daughter and Cornwall's wife; as cruel, devious, and evil as Goneril, she joins her sister in seeking Lear's destruction

**THE DUKE OF CORNWALL** Regan's husband, a ruthless fellow who imagines himself a defender of the realm

**CORDELIA** Lear's youngest (and favorite) daughter, a loyal and trustworthy woman who is disinherited because she refuses to flatter her father

**THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY** one of Cordelia's suitors

**THE EARL OF KENT** a staunch and courageous member of Lear's court who goes to extreme lengths to support and defend his troubled monarch

**THE EARL OF GLOUCESTER** loyal member of Lear's court who is viciously blinded for his faithfulness to Lear

**EDGAR** Gloucester's elder son, later disguised as Poor Tom, the beggar, who goes to great lengths to protect his father and regain his reputation

**EDMUND** Gloucester's younger, illegitimate son—an evil and resentful man who unleashes a cruel plan to have his brother banished in order to gain Gloucester's riches; also joins with the forces working against Lear

**OSWALD** Goneril's steward, he relentlessly carries out his mistress's commands, even to the point of his own destruction

**CURAN** Gloucester's servant

**OLD MAN** Gloucester's tenant

**FOOL** Lear's Jester and confidant who gives the king good advice in a joking manner

**KNIGHTS, OFFICERS, MESSENGERS, SOLDIERS, SERVANTS, and ATTENDANTS**

## SUMMARIES BY ACT

### ACT 1

As the play opens, the Earl of Gloucester, a loyal member of King Lear's court, introduces his illegitimate son Edmund to another member of the court, the Earl of Kent. As the men are speaking, trumpets announce the arrival of Lear, his daughters, and two of their husbands, the Duke of Albany and the Duke of Cornwall. Lear surprises them all by saying that he intends to divide his kingdom among his daughters, Regan, Goneril, and Cordelia. When he adds that he'll be "most generous" to the daughter who loves him most, Goneril and Regan make flattering speeches. Cordelia, however, straightforwardly says that she loves him "no more and no less than a daughter should." Lear takes this as an insult and banishes her from his kingdom.

When the Duke of Kent objects to his rash decision, Lear calls him a traitor and banishes him, too. Then the Duke of Burgundy, who's been engaged to Cordelia, decides that he won't marry her without her inheritance. The King of France, who is also in attendance, takes advantage of this opportunity and offers to marry Cordelia himself. When he and Cordelia depart, Regan and Goneril discuss the king's irrational behavior and begin to plot against him.

In the meantime, jealous Edmund plots to destroy the reputation of his brother Edgar, Gloucester's legitimate son, while the banished Kent disguises

himself in order to be hired as a servant in Lear's court, where he will try to protect the king's interests. As the act concludes, Lear's fool warns him of his jeopardy as Goneril and Regan begin to reveal their truly evil intentions toward their father.

### ACT 2

Edgar is caught in the trap Edmund has set for him, is disavowed by Gloucester, and goes on the run. In league with Edmund's treachery, Regan and Cornwall pretend friendship with Gloucester and ask his help in dealing with Lear's "problems." Then Oswald, Goneril's steward, is attacked by the disguised Kent for taking Goneril's side against the king. In defense of Oswald, Regan and Cornwall have Kent put in the stocks, which enrages Gloucester.

In the meantime, Lear, having been treated disrespectfully by Goneril, appeals to Regan to invite him and his knights into her house. When Goneril arrives, however, the sisters greet each other warmly. Then Lear realizes that neither daughter is willing to welcome his retinue and that both are allied against him. In bitter despair, he walks out in a storm, bewailing his sad situation.

### ACT 3

The Earl of Kent, dressed as a servant, finds Lear and his fool wandering the heath in the pouring

**SUMMARIES BY ACT**

rain. He leads the king to the shelter of a nearby shed, where they come upon Edgar, disguised as Poor Tom, an addled beggar. Then Gloucester arrives, pledging his loyalty to Lear in spite of his daughters' "harsh commands." Meanwhile, Edmund shows Cornwall a letter proving that Gloucester is acting on behalf of the King of France, who has now become England's enemy.

At the same time, Gloucester and Kent, still disguised, meet with Lear, Kent, and the fool at a farmhouse. There, Lear conducts a mock trial of his daughters' misdeeds. Lear appoints the fool and Kent to act as judges. As Lear rants and raves, Kent becomes alarmed by his lack of control and begs him to rest. Then Gloucester says that he's overheard a plot to kill the king. Gloucester and several of his men carry Lear to Dover, where France's army has landed.

Hearing that Lear is in Dover, the evil Cornwall has Gloucester arrested and puts out his eyes. When a servant tries to intervene, Regan runs him through with a sword and orders that the blinded Gloucester be thrown out the gate. Two servants take pity on him and put him in the care of Edgar, who is still disguised as Poor Tom.

**ACT 4**

While Edgar leads Gloucester to Dover, Goneril, in love with Edmund, is sharply criticized by her husband, the Duke of Albany. When a messenger brings news of

Gloucester's mutilation, Albany vows to get revenge on Gloucester's behalf.

In the French camp near Dover, a gentleman advises Kent that Cordelia shed "holy tears" at the news of her father's plight. But Lear, out of a deep sense of shame, refuses to speak with her. Meanwhile, Regan becomes suspicious of Goneril's interest in Edmund when Oswald shows her a letter she has written to him. She also offers Oswald a reward if he kills Gloucester.

Lear, dressed in flowers and talking nonsense, convinces Kent and Gloucester that he has truly become mad. They are grieving this sad reality when Oswald appears and draws his sword on Gloucester. In defending his father, Edgar kills Oswald. Then he finds Goneril's letter to Edmund in Oswald's pocket. Now he knows that her plan was to kill her husband and replace him with Edmund.

In another tent in the French camp, Cordelia visits Lear and they have a joyful reunion. Meanwhile, the French and English armies approach each other as the battle is about to begin.

**ACT 5**

As Goneril and Regan continue to wrangle over Edmund's affections, Lear and Cordelia are captured. Edmund and Albany argue over when their trial should be held. Albany is furious when Regan sides with Edmund. Regan complains of not feeling well as Albany challenges Edmund to a duel. Then Edgar arrives and announces that he will fight Edmund

**LITERARY GLOSSARY**

**aside** lines spoken by an actor that the other characters on stage supposedly cannot hear; an aside usually shares the character's inner thoughts with the audience

**Although she appeared to be calm, the heroine's aside revealed her inner terror.**

**backstage** the part of the theater where actors prepare to go onstage, where scenery is kept, etc.

**Before entering, the villain impatiently waited backstage.**

**cast** the entire company of actors performing in a play

**The entire cast must attend tonight's dress rehearsal.**

**character** a fictional person or creature in a story or play

**Mighty Mouse is one of my favorite cartoon characters.**

**climax** the outcome of the main conflict of a play or novel

**The outlaw's capture made an exciting climax to the story.**

**comedy** a funny play, film, or TV show that has a happy ending

**My friends and I always enjoy a Jim Carrey comedy.**

**conflict** the struggle between characters, forces, or ideas at the center of a story

***Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* illustrates the conflict between good and evil.**

**conclusion** the resolution of all plot conflicts, bringing a story to a close

**That play's conclusion was very satisfying. Every conflict was resolved.**

**dialogue** words spoken by the characters in a novel or play

**Amusing dialogue is an important element of most comedies.**

**drama** a story, usually not a comedy, especially written to be performed by actors in a play or movie

**The TV drama about spies was very suspenseful.**

**event** something that happens; a specific occurrence

**The most exciting event in the story was the surprise ending.**

**figurative language** colorful wording not meant to be taken literally, but to form a colorful, sharp picture in the mind

**A "screaming" headline may be set in large type, but it makes no sound at all.**

**introduction** a short reading that presents and explains a novel or play

**The introduction to *Frankenstein* is in the form of a letter.**

**motive** the internal or external force that makes a character do something

**What was that character's motive for telling a lie?**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Circle a letter to complete the sentence or answer the question.

1. **Who does the Earl of Gloucester introduce to the Earl of Kent?**
  - a. his father, Edgar
  - b. his son, Edmund
  - c. the Duke of Burgundy
2. **Lear says he wishes to confer his kingdom on**
  - a. younger shoulders.
  - b. his sons-in-law.
  - c. his long lost son.
3. **Who says that Lear is “dearer than eyesight, space, and liberty”?**
  - a. Goneril
  - b. Oswald
  - c. Cordelia
4. **Which daughter does King Lear call “hard-hearted”?**
  - a. Regan
  - b. Cordelia
  - c. Goneril
5. **Lear says he will be most generous to the daughter who**
  - a. needs the most help.
  - b. loves him the most.
  - c. refuses to get married.
6. **What is Goneril’s complaint about Lear’s followers?**
  - a. They’re drunk and disorderly.
  - b. They talk behind Lear’s back.
  - c. They’re spies for the French.
7. **Lear claims the right to keep**
  - a. track of the kingdom’s income.
  - b. his own fool.
  - c. 100 knights.
8. **Kent begs Lear to**
  - a. reconsider his decision.
  - b. hire him as steward.
  - c. let Regan inherit everything.
9. **Lear responds to Kent by**
  - a. taking his good advice.
  - b. giving him more money.
  - c. ordering him out of his kingdom.
10. **Who finally decides *not* to marry Cordelia?**
  - a. the Duke of Cornwall
  - b. the Duke of Burgundy
  - c. the Duke of Albany
11. **Who asks Cordelia to marry him?**
  - a. the King of France
  - b. the Earl of Gloucester
  - c. the Earl of Kent
12. **Who creates a rift between Gloucester and Edgar?**
  - a. Kent
  - b. Edmund
  - c. Goneril

**WORDS AND MEANINGS**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

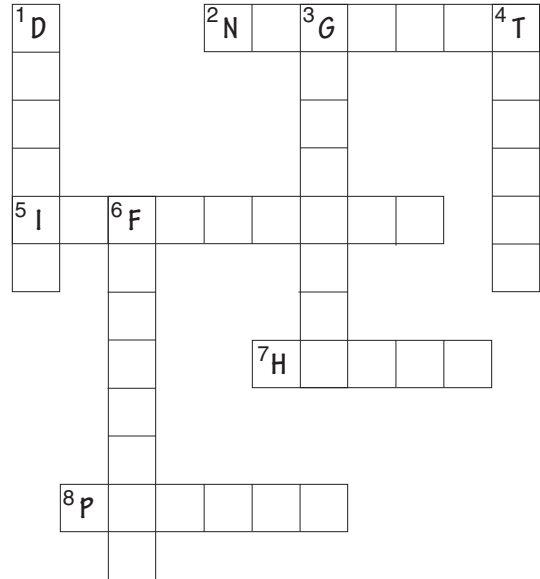
**A.** Solve the crossword puzzle with words from Act 1.

**ACROSS**

- 2. to fail to do something you should be doing
- 5. the condition of being feeble or weak
- 7. those who will inherit someone else’s money or property
- 8. to like something better than something else

**DOWN**

- 1. a lie or a dishonest act
- 3. describes someone who is easily cheated or tricked
- 4. a ruler, usually harsh, who has complete power
- 6. too much praise that is sometimes insincere



**B.** Use words from the puzzle to complete the sentences.

- 1. Neither Albany nor Cornwall would \_\_\_\_\_ the other one’s share of Lear’s kingdom.
- 2. Kent suggested that Regan’s and Goneril’s speeches were full of hollow \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. New faults come with age and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Edmund’s letter criticized Lear as an “aged \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 5. Edmund had a noble brother and a \_\_\_\_\_ father.
- 6. At first, Lear offers a third of his kingdom to Cordelia and her \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. The King of France accused the gods of “cold \_\_\_\_\_” in the case of the worthy Cordelia.
- 8. Cordelia tells Lear that time will reveal what \_\_\_\_\_ hides.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**A.** Find and circle the hidden vocabulary words from Act 1. Words may go up, down, across, backward, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| ___ RASH    | ___ FERTILE     |
| ___ CURSE   | ___ CONDEMN     |
| ___ RETAIN  | ___ REVOKED     |
| ___ CONFER  | ___ INNOCENCE   |
| ___ CONCEAL | ___ PARTICULAR  |
| ___ SACRED  | ___ ACKNOWLEDGE |

K	N	O	L	S	C	A	Q	U	P	M
T	Y	D	E	K	O	V	E	R	A	A
H	A	W	L	E	N	S	D	F	R	C
G	S	H	I	A	F	X	L	P	T	K
D	O	A	T	F	E	C	G	E	I	N
E	H	I	R	O	R	O	C	J	C	O
R	S	L	E	D	C	N	H	K	U	W
C	O	A	F	H	E	D	G	E	L	L
A	D	E	Z	C	B	E	N	O	A	E
S	P	C	O	K	S	M	E	I	R	D
T	G	N	J	R	L	N	K	C	A	G
H	N	O	U	J	E	R	V	S	D	E
I	B	C	M	N	I	A	T	E	R	O

**B.** Use puzzle words to complete the pairs of *synonyms* (words with the same or similar meanings) and *antonyms* (words with opposite meanings).

**SYNONYMS**

**ANTONYMS**

1. canceled / \_\_\_\_\_
2. bestow / \_\_\_\_\_
3. recognize / \_\_\_\_\_
4. holy / \_\_\_\_\_
5. impulsive / \_\_\_\_\_
6. keep / \_\_\_\_\_

7. guilt / \_\_\_\_\_
8. barren / \_\_\_\_\_
9. general / \_\_\_\_\_
10. expose / \_\_\_\_\_
11. blessing / \_\_\_\_\_
12. praise / \_\_\_\_\_