



SOUTHERN SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

King Lear Read-Along Activities

These activities were developed by SSC as part of a social media “Community Read-Along” series designed to engage the community in a fashion similar to that of an online book club. Each week 3-4 scenes were “assigned” and SSC’s Facebook Page facilitated a dialogue around the text – providing thought points, discussion questions, and activities for theatre students.

King Lear

ACT 1, SCENES 1-3

In these first three scenes we meet all of our main characters and witness the catalyst for all of the play’s action: Lear’s division of his kingdom and the handing over of his power to his daughters.



King Lear, Act I, Scene I – Cordelia’s Farewell- Edwin Austin Abbey

Discussion Questions:

- While reading these scenes, reflect on the relationship between fathers and their children.
- What is Gloucester’s relationship with each of his sons like?
- What is Lear’s relationship with each of his daughter’s like?
- What does each man think about love?
- What is the relationship between love and duty?

Student Activities

1. Inspect the two pictures below of the Royal Shakespeare Company’s production of *King Lear*.

How are the set design and costuming used to convey Lear’s power? Can you identify Cordelia by costume alone?



2. Create a set or costume design for Act 1, Scene 1 of *King Lear*! Think about the status of each character and their role in the action of the play. Post your designs on our Facebook Wall for us all to admire!