

KING LEAR 1.1

Teaching Notes for a Close Analysis Exercise

1. Vocabulary

| Current words | | | Obsolete words | | | 'Danger' words | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <i>line</i> | <i>word</i> | | <i>line</i> | <i>word</i> | | <i>line</i> | <i>word</i> |
| 1 | 6 | moiety (?) | 1 | 21 | whoreson | 1 | 4 | appears |
| 2 | 9 | brazen (v) | 2 | 71 | felicitate ? | 2 | 10 | conceive |
| 3 | 19 | saucily | 3 | 82 | interest | 3 | 15 | issue |
| 4 | 43 | amorous | 4 | 158 | miscreant | 4 | 20 | fair |
| 5 | 43 | sojourn | 5 | 159 | forbear | 5 | 27 | study |
| 6 | 51 | wield | 6 | 166 | durst | 6 | 34 | fast |
| 7 | 60 | champaign | 7 | 168 | nor... nor... | 7 | 39 | constant |
| 8 | 61 | mead | 8 | 177 | sith | 8 | 40 | several |
| 9 | 62 | issue | 9 | 195 | aught / naught | 9 | 48 | bounty |
| 10 | 75 | ponderous | 10 | 291 | therewhital | 10 | 52 | space |
| 11 | 83 | opulent | | | | 11 | 65 | self |
| 12 | 105 | dower | | | | 12 | 65 | metal |
| 13 | 111 | propinquity | | | | 13 | 70 | square |
| 14 | 114 | mess | | | | 14 | 76 | hereditary |
| 15 | 121 | hence | | | | 15 | 87 | unhappy |
| 16 | 158 | vassal | | | | 16 | 91 | how |
| 17 | 195 | aught | | | | 17 | 94 | fit |
| 18 | 207 | beseech | | | | 18 | 97 | happily |
| 19 | 213 | trice | | | | 19 | 114 | mess |
| 20 | 275 | alms | | | | 20 | 117 | sometime(s) |
| 21 | 293 | choleric | | | | 21 | 121 | nursery |
| | | | | | | 22 | 141 | fork |
| | | | | | | 23 | 144 | dread |
| | | | | | | 24 | 146 | reserve |
| | | | | | | 25 | 152 | pawn |
| | | | | | | 26 | 192 | right |
| | | | | | | 27 | 197 | like |
| | | | | | | 28 | 211 | even |
| | | | | | | 29 | 215 | fold |
| | | | | | | 30 | 221 | want |
| | | | | | | 31 | 222 | purpose |
| | | | | | | 32 | 239 | portion |
| | | | | | | 33 | 273 | study |
| | | | | | | 34 | 298 | hit |

2. Familiar and Formal Address

Characters who use formal address:

| <i>Speaker</i> | | <i>addressed</i> | <i>form</i> | <i>line</i> |
|----------------|----|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Kent | to | Gloucester | you | 7 |
| Gloucester | to | Edmund | you | 13 |
| Edmund | to | Kent | you | 25 |
| Kent | to | Edmund | you | 26 |
| Lear | to | Albany | you | 38 |
| Goneril | to | Lear | you | 51 |
| Regan | to | Lear | you | 72 |
| Lear | to | Cordelia | you | 82 |
| Cordelia | to | Lear | you | 89 |
| Lear | to | Burgundy | you | 187 |
| Burgundy | to | Lear | you | 191 |
| Lear | to | France | you | 205 |
| France | to | Burgundy | you | 235 |
| Burgundy | to | Cordelia | you | 243 |
| Goneril | to | Cordelia | you | 273 |
| Regan | to | Goneril | you | 283 |
| Goneril | to | Regan | you | 284 |
| France | to | Lear | your | 211 |

Characters who use 'familiar' address:

| <i>speaker</i> | | <i>addressed</i> | <i>form</i> | <i>line</i> |
|----------------|----|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| France | to | Cordelia | art | 247 |
| Lear | to | Goneril | thee | 62 |
| Lear | to | Regan | thee | 76 |
| Kent | to | Cordelia | thee | 179 |
| Kent | to | Lear | thou | 143 |
| Lear | to | France | thou | 259 |
| Lear | to | Cordelia | thy | 102 |
| Lear | to | Kent | thy | 151 |

Summary

There are 26 pairs of characters
8 use the familiar forms
(5 of those are Lear)
1 character changes his form of
address (Lear to Cordelia)

3. Prosody

Lines 1-31 are prose (Kent, Gloucester, and Edmund)

Lines 32-279 are verse (the court scene)

Lines 280-302 are prose (Goneril and Regan)

So:

Prose accounts for 54 lines, or 18% of the scene

Verse accounts for 248 lines or 82% of the scene

No character uses any prose while King Lear is on stage.

Lear has the first line of blank verse; Cordelia has the last.

When Goneril and Regan are left alone, they fall immediately into prose.

Both Kent and Gloucester change from prose to blank verse when Lear enters.

4. Shared Lines

| <i>Line</i> | <i>Begun by</i> | <i>Ended by</i> | <i>Line</i> | <i>Begun by</i> | <i>Ended by</i> |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 92 | Lear | Cordelia | 198 | Lear | Burgundy |
| 102 | Lear | Cordelia | 203 | Lear | Burgundy |
| 117 | Lear | Kent | 210 | Lear | France |
| 136 | Lear | Kent | 220 | France | Cordelia |
| 151 | Kent | Lear | 230 | Cordelia | Lear |
| 154 | Kent | Lear | 238 | France | Burgundy |
| 157 | Lear | Kent | 244 | Burgundy | Cordelia |
| 158 | Kent | Lear | 264 | Lear | France |
| 163 | Kent | Lear | 273 | Regan | Goneril |
| 190 | Lear | Burgundy | 279 | Cordelia | France |
| 192 | Burgundy | Lear | | | |

5. Antithesis

France's speech on Cordelia:

| <i>line</i> | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 247 | rich | poor |
| 248 | choice | forsaken |
| 248 | loved | despised |
| 250 | take up | cast away |
| 251-52 | cold | inflamed |
| 251-52 | neglect | respect |
| 253 | dowerless | queen |
| 256 | unprized | precious |