



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.

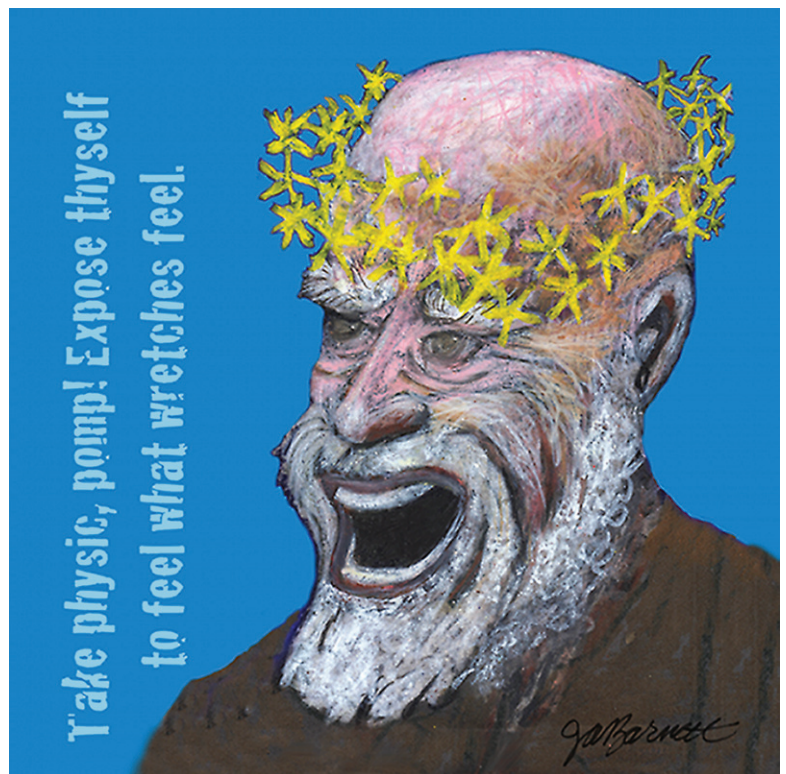
King Lear – ACT 3, SCENES 4-5

For this installment of our King Lear Read Along, using the link below, we are moving along to read King Lear, Act 3, Scenes 4 and 5!

<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/lear/full.html>

In the first of these two scenes, King Lear gives a curious little speech:

“Poor naked wretches, whereso'er you are,
That bide the pelting of this pitiless
storm,
How shall your houseless heads and
unfed sides,
Your loop'd and window'd raggedness,
defend you
From seasons such as these? O, I have
ta'en
Too little care of this! Take physic, pomp;
Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel,
That thou mayst shake the superflux to
them,
And show the heavens more just.”



It is the middle of the night, a storm unlike any other rages, King Lear finds himself raving in the rain outside of a hovel... family-less and rejected – Shakespeare chooses THIS moment for Lear to come to the realization that he has done too little to help the suffering of the “wretched”, homeless, or dejected members of his Kingdom.

A clear message that sometimes a dose of misery or hardship can open one’s eyes to the difference between what is important in life and what is mere indulgence or privilege.

#SSCreadalong - #SSC - #shakespeare - #kinglear - #southernshakes - #ihearttally - #theartslivehere - #theatreeducation



King Lear Read-Along Activities - Act 3, Scenes 4-5

Discussion Questions:

- In King Lear, Act 3, Scene 4 our titular character encounters, for the first time, Edgar in disguise as Tom O'Bedlam. After listening to Tom rant for some time, King Lear is so moved by his circumstances that he rips off his royal clothing and gives them to the beggar.
 1. How is this action symbolic?
 2. Why does Shakespeare choose this moment in the play to show Lear shed his last trappings of royalty?
- In Act 3, Scene 5 Edmund betrays his father and reports the presence of French troops and Gloucester's continued support of Lear to the Duke of Cornwall. As a reward, Cornwall appoints Edmund his father's title: Earl of Gloucester.
 3. What do Edmund's actions say about the theme of loyalty throughout the play? What do they say about the theme of family? How does Edmund feel about family and about loyalty?

