

Special Ed

# KING LEAR

**INCLUDES  
ADAPTED  
NOVEL**

25 activities

act/scene questions

Special Needs for Special Kids



These novel units are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges and most were **non-readers**. They were the best thing I ever did, and my students **LOVED** them.



The Earl of Gloucester is a loyal nobleman who serves King Lear. He has two sons, Edmund and Edgar. Because Edmund was born before the earl was married, he is unable to inherit land or power from his father.



At the castle, Cornwall learns that Gloucester is helping Lear. He orders Gloucester to be found, arrested, and brought back to the castle. Regan convinces Cornwall that the punishment must be severe so others will side with them and not try to escape to Dover.



Since this book is in the public domain, I have created an **adapted version of the novel.**

It comes as:

- PowerPoint (113 slides)
- Google Slides
- Text-only document



Cordelia sends her troops out to find Lear. Meanwhile, a messenger arrives with news: the British forces, led by Albany, Goneril, Regan, and Edmund, are preparing for battle. Cordelia accepts that she and her army will have to fight as well to restore Lear to his rightful place.



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Kent and Lear have reached Dover, where the French soldiers have gathered to help the king. Cordelia is there as well, distraught that her sisters have been so cruel. She tries to see her father, but Lear is too ashamed to meet with her. He wanders the fields wearing a crown of weeds and wildflowers, still in the grip of madness.



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Gloucester, desperate and ashamed of his life, tells “Poor Tom” that he wants to be left alone so he can throw himself from the cliff and end his suffering. Edgar steps aside. Once Gloucester jumps, he simply falls forward onto the ground and collapses.



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Edmund sends Lear and Cordelia away under guard. He pretends he wants them kept safe, but privately, he orders the captain to kill them and make it look like suicide.



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This novel unit has **14 different activities**. These activities will engage your students with what is happening in the story.

# NOT a Happy Ending

I wrote a story. The end was really .

First, the  could not rescued the princess.

Then they lost the treasure in the .

The dangerous  could not be stopped.

Everyone lived unhappily ever after in the .

 sad	 depressing	 awful	 unhappy	 unexpected	 unfortunate
 prince	 frog	 king	 dragon	 hero	 elf
 ship	 castle	 cave	 dungeon	 sand	 cabin
 vampire	 villain	 storm	 virus	 witch	 dragon
 castle	 village	 cabin	 haunted house	 city	 island

Act 5  
Scene 2-3  
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For example, as with all of Shakespeare's tragedies, this play does not have a happy ending. In this activity, students will write their own unhappy ending.

This is an errorless activity.

Each time you finish a scene, there will be one or more activities your students can do.

The activity will relate to something that occurred in the scene.

These are cut-and-paste activities that are supported with pictures.

**Optional:** Quiz students' comprehension by having them answer 5 multiple-choice questions about that scene.

Act 3  
Scene 2-3

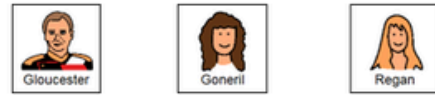
1. Will Lear go back to Gloucester's castle to escape the storm?



2. Where does Kent find shelter for Lear in the storm?



3. Who plans to find Lear in the storm and provide him shelter?



4. Who is sending forces to invade Britain?

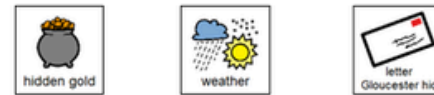


5. What has Gloucester hidden in his room?



Act 3  
Scene 5-6

1. What does Edmund tell Cornwall about?



2. Who does Cornwall say must be caught and punished?



3. What does Lear pretend to do while in the outbuilding?



4. Who has driven Lear to madness?



5. What does Gloucester tell them they all must do?



This unit does come with comprehension questions. There are 5 questions for every 1-2 scenes. Each question has 3 picture choices. They are in color and black and white.

Answer key included!!

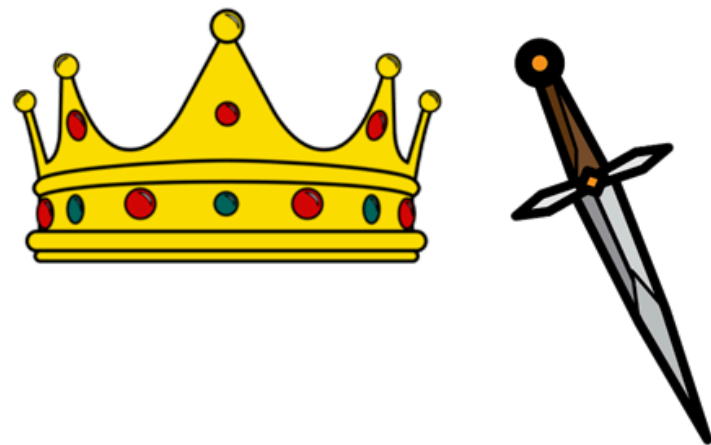
# Suggestions for Use

- I made this unit to go along with the book, *King Lear* by William Shakespeare.
- The thought is that you would be reading it aloud to your class at a rate of about 1 scene per day.
- Be sure to give each student their own copy of the story board (pg. 6) to use while reading and discussing the story.
- Benefits of reading out loud, even to classes made up of severely affected students:
  - Teaches students to sit quietly even when there isn't something for them to do. This is such an important life skill. We all have to spend time sitting and listening to someone we are not that interested in at some point.
  - Parents will LOVE you. Not only will they be excited their child is being exposed to age appropriate material, but you are teaching them how to sit quietly, which will hopefully transfer to home as well.
  - Even with your lowest level learners, you will have 1 or 2 that will truly enjoy the story.
- It can be a calming experience to sit and listen to the teacher read in a methodical way. For students who need more structure, place the number of post-it notes in front of him/her that corresponds to the number of pages you intend to read. Remove a post-it as you finish each page. The visual will help lessen their anxiety.
- You will find one or more activities for each chapter. You will still have plenty to choose from and find those that fit best with your students.
- Differentiation:
  - For any activity, you can quickly differentiate for your lower level learners by using a color coding technique.
  - If sorting, outline each sorting category a certain color and then outline the corresponding pictures the same color.
  - Becomes a matching task.
- There are comprehension questions to accompany this unit. There are 5 questions for every 1-2 scenes with 3 picture answer choices. You will find these (in color and BW) in a separate file.

Suggestions on how I found this activity worked best in my classroom are provided. I typically had 6-8 students with one adult assistant in the room with me.

# King Lear Novel Unit for Special Education

By  
Christa Joy  
Special Needs for Special Kids



This entire novel unit comes in  
2 separate files. One is  
completely in color and one is  
completely in black and white.

Story Board : to use while reading and for class discussions. Laminate and make 1 copy for each student.

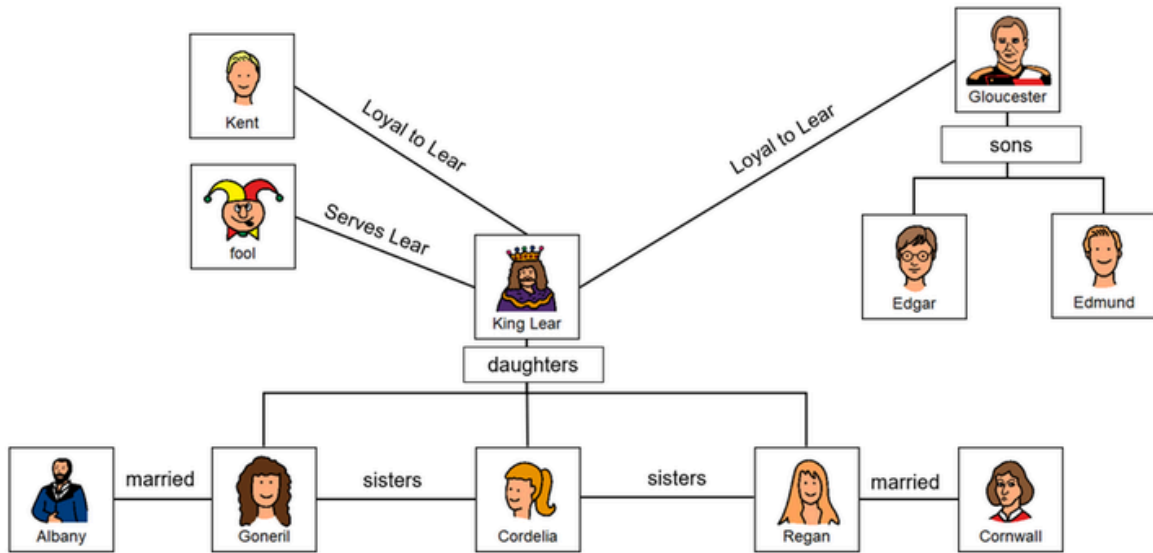


This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

# King Lear



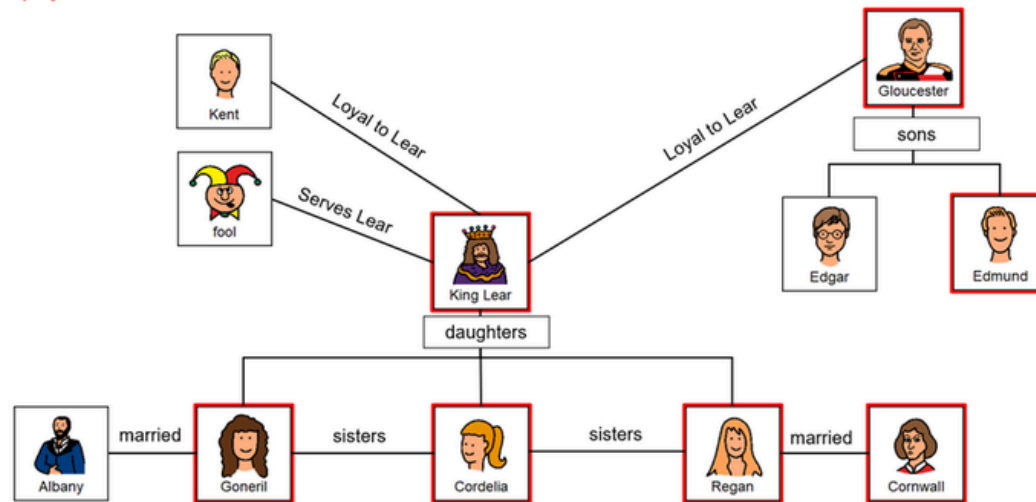
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The Picture Commun  
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This unit also comes with a character map. The color version has a differentiated version showing all the characters who die in the play.

# King Lear

Die in the play



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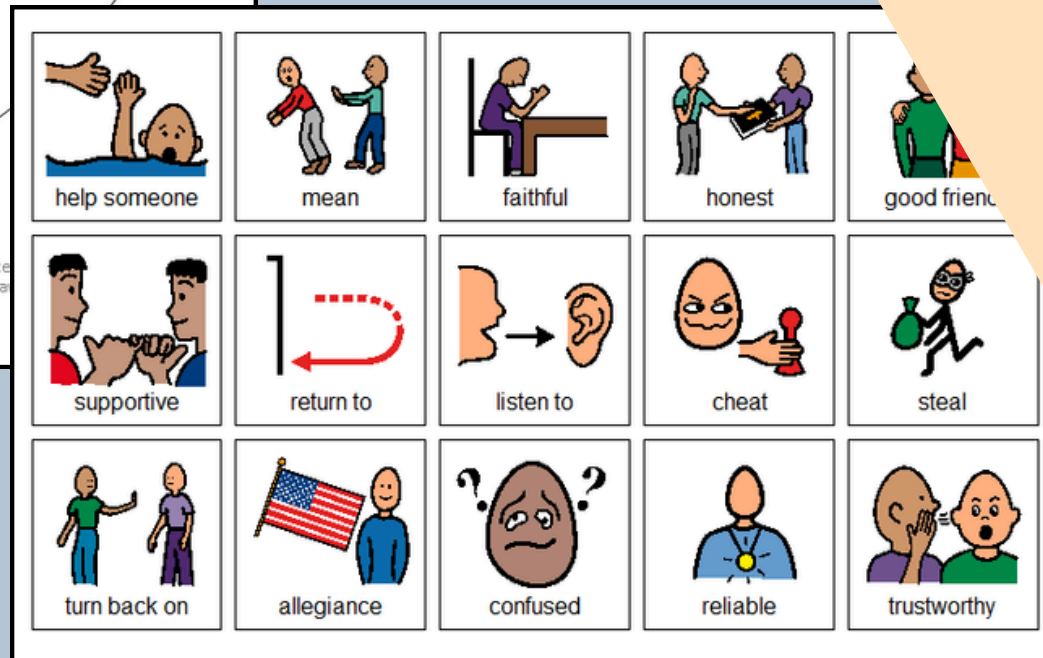
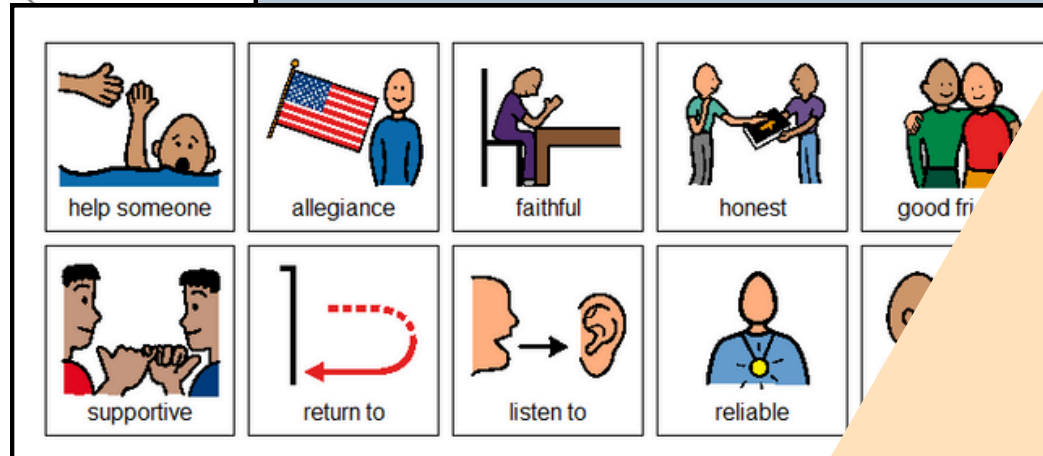
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This uses the same character images used throughout the activities and questions for each scene.

Edmund is asked to save his father, but he does not. He does not show any loyalty to Gloucester. What would loyalty look like?



## ERRORLESS VERSION



There are circle maps in this unit.

Circle maps are a great way for students to see a big idea.

**WRONG ANSWERS  
MIXED IN**

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Act 3  
Scene 7

King Lear is out in the woods during a terrible thunder storm. Where are some safe and unsafe places you can be in a bad storm?




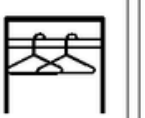







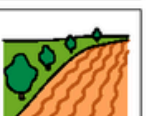





safe



unsafe

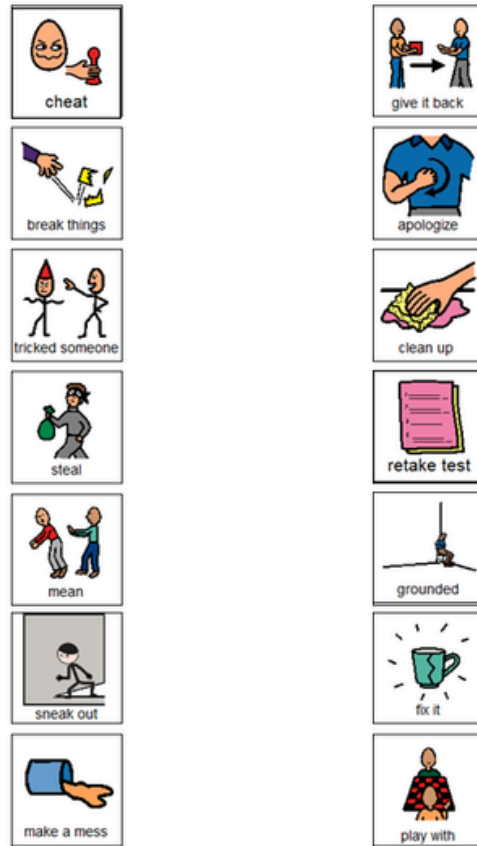
Sort the following into the correct column on the previous page. If you are not sure, place it on the middle line.

 golf course	 basement	 hill	 closet	 outside
 by a flagpole	 near a window	 in school	 under a tree	 in the mall
 in a bathroom	 in a field	 in a car	 inside	 flying a kite

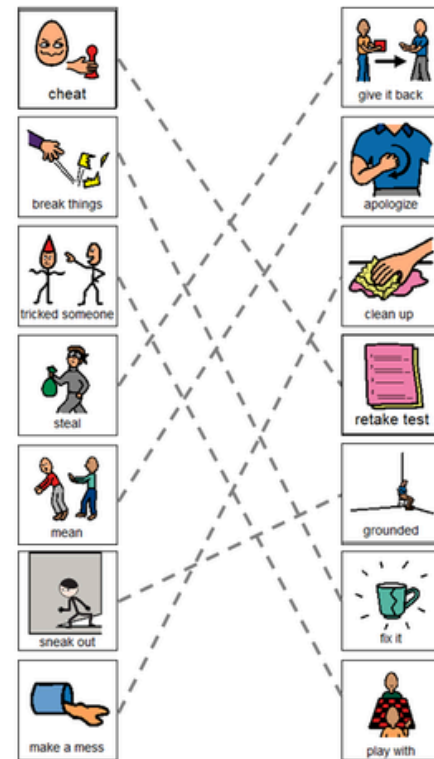
There are sorting activities.

Directions on how to add color coding or a separate differentiated version are included.

Cornwall puts Kent in the stocks as punishment for attacking Oswald. What do you think would be a fair punishment for each of the following actions on the right?



Cornwall puts Kent in the stocks as punishment for attacking Oswald. What do you think would be a fair punishment for each of the following actions on the right?



There are matching activities.

Directions on how to add color coding or a separate differentiated version are included (shown here).

# Lear heads out into the storm



Lear felt  so he ran out into the night.

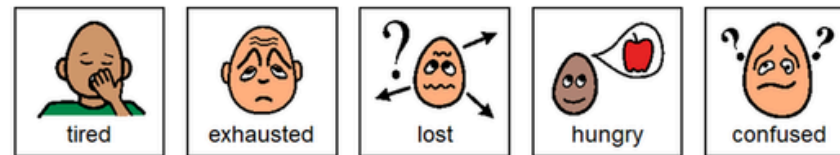
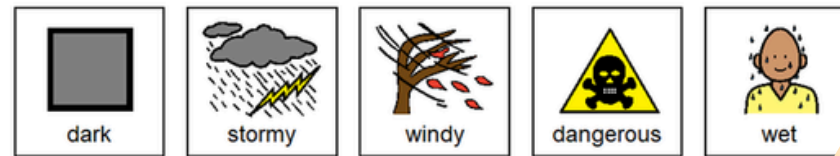
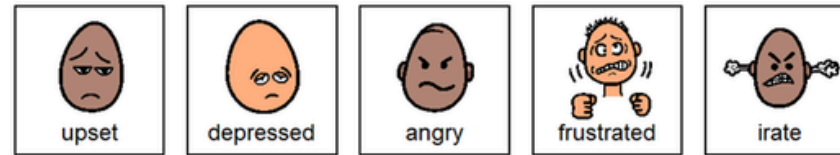
The night was  .



He could hear  in the distance.

He was  but kept going. He would not go back.

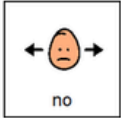
Luckily, he had  with him.



There are writing prompts.

These are errorless activities that allow students to write a story independently.

Oswald tells Regan "no" she cannot see the letter Goneril wrote. What if someone asked you to do the things on the next page? When should you say "no" and when can you say "okay"?



Gloucester is accusing Edgar of treason, and declares he should be killed when found. What is treason?

Treason is betraying your .

Treason is telling .

Treason is trying to overthrow the .

People can go to  for treason.

This play takes place in Ancient Britain. Color in the Britain.

# Europe



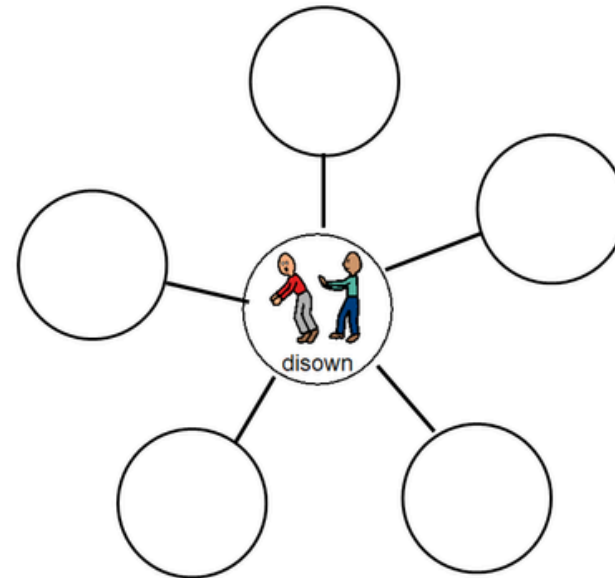
Because there are so many activities, you can choose the ones that fit your students the best.

Sort the following into the correct column on the previous page. If you are not sure, place it on the middle line.

share a secret	study together	read a diary	take something
sleepover	go for a walk	cheat on test	see a movie
steal	mail a letter	go shopping	run away
not wear a seat belt	play at recess	push someone	eat lunch together

secrets	jail	country
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King Lear disowns Cordelia because she will not declare her love for him publicly. What does it mean to disown someone?



abandon	deny	throw away	reject	don't want
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