

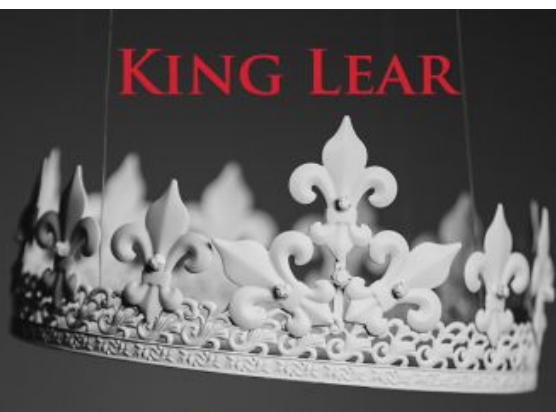
ACTORS FROM THE LONDON STAGE

KING LEAR

PARENT/CAREGIVER GUIDE

MARCH 27 & 28, 2019

Use this guide to jump-start a conversation with your child about the performance they saw recently – not only will you get to learn about what your child experienced, but it will also help them to process and reflect upon the onstage material.



WRITE AND RESPOND

King Lear has a particular expectation of his daughters both as a father and as a long-standing monarch. When it's time to divide his kingdom at the beginning of the story, he expects his daughters to profess their love of him. You could say that his expectation comes from his sense of power. Journal or discuss your answer to any of these questions:

- What does power mean to you and how would you expect others to use their power?
- If someone gains or loses power, how does it impact their character or identity?
- Was there a time when you had certain powers that you didn't use wisely? What was the impact?
- Have you seen power have a positive impact on a leader? How was this kind of power expressed?

CASTING LEAR

Ask students, if you were casting a movie of King Lear, what stars would you get to be in it? Ask each student to work independently and cast each of the characters above using actors and celebrities. Have students share their casting if they feel comfortable, explaining why they think their choices are well suited for King Lear.

A BIT OF BACKGROUND

Founded in 1975, **Actors From The London Stage** (AFTLS) is one of the oldest touring Shakespeare theatre companies in the world. Housed and workshopped in the UK and based in the United States at Shakespeare at Notre Dame, this intensive residency program is truly one of a kind.

Be it in classroom workshops, onstage demonstrations and performances, text readings, or informal meetings with students, AFTLS actors are committed to teaching and being entirely accessible to students during each visit.

Actors From The London Stage provide a one-of-a-kind experience of Shakespeare. The performance involves five actors who take on multiple roles and use minimal props, costumes, and set. The staging of the show highlights the talent of each actor and the ensemble as a whole. Instead of relying on other actors or costumes to distinguish between characters, Actors From The London Stage are trained to switch from one character to another within and between scenes. The focus of the performance is on the words Shakespeare uses to tell the story. Whether students are familiar with or new to the body of work, Actors From The London Stage provides an inclusive, interactive gateway to experiencing the richness of Shakespeare's writing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the performance about? (Did it connect to history? To something else you've seen?)
- What did the performance make you think about? (Did it spark any new thoughts or give you any new understanding?)
- How did you connect ideas in the performance to ideas or realities in your own life? In the rest of the world?
- Can you remember something about the performance that you particularly liked or disliked? If so, what was it and why did it stand out to you?
- Did you have a favorite moment in the performance? Tell me about it.