Daily Bard

QUOTATION SHEET

King Lear: key quotation sheet

11 quotations worth knowing by heart, each with a plain-English reading, space for your notes, and a fill-the-gap test.



How to use this sheet

These are the 11 quotations from the King Lear study guide, set out for revision. Part one gives each quotation with a plain-English reading and space for your own notes. Part two prints them again with a word missing from each line, so that you can test yourself.

- [ ] Read the quotation aloud twice. Sound helps memory more than staring does.
- [ ] In the note space, name one method (a device, a word choice, a feature of the verse) and the effect it has.
- [ ] Add one link: to a theme, to another moment in the text, or to a point of context.
- [ ] A day later, cover part one and complete part two from memory.

Part one: the quotations

> Nothing will come of nothing. Speak again.
>
> LEAR · ACT 1, SCENE 1

Plain English: You will get nothing if you say nothing. Try again.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> I love your Majesty
> According to my bond, no more nor less.
>
> CORDELIA · ACT 1, SCENE 1

Plain English: I love you as a daughter should love her father, exactly that much.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Thou, Nature, art my goddess. To thy law
> My services are bound.
>
> EDMUND · ACT 1, SCENE 2

Plain English: Nature, you are the goddess I serve. I follow your law and no other.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> LEAR Who is it that can tell me who I am?
> FOOL Lear's shadow.
>
> LEAR AND THE FOOL · ACT 1, SCENE 4

Plain English: Can anyone tell me who I am? Fool: You are only the shadow of Lear.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> O, reason not the need! Our basest beggars
> Are in the poorest thing superfluous.
>
> LEAR · ACT 2, SCENE 4

Plain English: Do not argue about what I need. Even the poorest beggar owns something more than bare necessity.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> I am a man
> More sinned against than sinning.
>
> LEAR · ACT 3, SCENE 2

Plain English: Others have wronged me more than I have wronged anyone.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> O, I have ta'en
> Too little care of this. Take physic, pomp.
> Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel
>
> LEAR · ACT 3, SCENE 4

Plain English: I have neglected this. Let the powerful take their medicine and feel what the poor feel.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> As flies to wanton boys are we to th' gods;
> They kill us for their sport.
>
> GLOUCESTER · ACT 4, SCENE 1

Plain English: The gods treat us as careless boys treat flies. They kill us for fun.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> I am a very foolish fond old man,
> Fourscore and upward, not an hour more nor less
>
> LEAR · ACT 4, SCENE 7

Plain English: I am a silly, doting old man, eighty and more, not an hour more or less.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Thou 'lt come no more,
> Never, never, never, never, never.
>
> LEAR · ACT 5, SCENE 3

Plain English: You will never come back. Never.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> The weight of this sad time we must obey,
> Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.
>
> EDGAR · ACT 5, SCENE 3

Plain English: We must bear this grief and say what we truly feel, not what is expected.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

Part two: test yourself

Fill each gap from memory, then check against part one. Mark the ones you missed and come back to them tomorrow.

> _____ will come of nothing. Speak again.
>
> LEAR · ACT 1, SCENE 1

> I love your _____
> _____ to my bond, no more nor less.
>
> CORDELIA · ACT 1, SCENE 1

> Thou, Nature, art my _____. To thy law
> My _____ are bound.
>
> EDMUND · ACT 1, SCENE 2

> LEAR Who is it that can tell me who I am?
> FOOL _____ shadow.
>
> LEAR AND THE FOOL · ACT 1, SCENE 4

> O, reason not the need! Our basest _____
> Are in the poorest thing _____.
>
> LEAR · ACT 2, SCENE 4

> I am a man
> More sinned _____ than sinning.
>
> LEAR · ACT 3, SCENE 2

> O, I have _____
> Too _____ care of this. Take physic, pomp.
> Expose thyself to feel what _____ feel
>
> LEAR · ACT 3, SCENE 4

> As flies to _____ boys are we to th' gods;
> They kill us for _____ sport.
>
> GLOUCESTER · ACT 4, SCENE 1

I am a very _____ fond old man,
_____ and upward, not an hour more nor less

LEAR · ACT 4, SCENE 7

Thou 'lt come no more,
_____, never, never, never, never.

LEAR · ACT 5, SCENE 3

The _____ of this sad time we must obey,
_____ what we feel, not what we ought to say.

EDGAR · ACT 5, SCENE 3

Next steps

Turn three of these quotations into full paragraphs with the **essay planner**, and check your method against the **close reading toolkit**. For a small daily dose of the language, **Daily Bard** shows one passage each morning with a plain-English reading on the back of the leaf.



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