

English Literature Answer Key Assignment 3

King Leir by Geoffrey of Monmouth

1. QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Why do you suppose Geoffrey of Monmouth gives two names—*Kaerleir* and *Leircestre*—for the kingdom or city which Leir ruled? What do you suppose the words *Kaer* (Welsh or British; also spelled *caer*) and *cestre* (Anglo-Saxon; also spelled *chester*) mean? Write down any other place names in your own area or abroad that have *cester* or *chester* in it. Here is an example: *West Chester. Being Welsh and writing about Briton kings, Geoffrey of Monmouth would want to include the British or Welsh name, but as the readership would include those for whom Leircestre would sound more familiar. There are many locations in the United Kingdom and the United States in which the root “chester” is incorporated into the name, such as Winchester (British town located in Hampshire County, south of England); Chester, PA; Lancaster (city near Philadelphia); and Manchester (located in the north of England).*
2. How does Leir propose to give away his kingdom? How does the writer explain such a foolish way of handling things?
Leir proposes to bestow upon his daughters portions of the kingdom according to their professed love for him. Monmouth suggests that Leir was old and credulous.
3. Using your own words, write down the responses of the daughters to Leir’s question of how much they love him.
4. Who marries the sisters? Which of the husbands is the foreign king? Where does this foreign king rule? What reason does the foreign king give for marrying Cordelia despite the fact that she has lost all her inheritance?
5. How is Leir eventually restored to his rightful throne? Is Leir active or passive in getting back his kingdom?

King Lear by Charles and Mary Lamb

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. d
2. c
3. d
4. c
5. e
6. b
7. d
8. b
9. c

10. a

King Lear by William Shakespeare

VOCABULARY EXERCISE (FILL IN THE BLANK)

1. propinquity
2. opulent
3. choleric
4. abode
5. marring
6. strife
7. ampleness
8. cunning
9. conferring
10. amorous

3. MULTIPLE CHOICE READING QUESTIONS

1. a
2. b
3. b
4. d
5. e
6. a
7. d
8. c
9. a
10. b