

2:3 *King Lear*, Act I, Scene I, Day 3, Act I, Scene i from the entrance of France and Burgundy to the end of the scene (approximately lines 214 to the end).

Summary: After Cordelia is rejected by her father, her first suitor, the King of Burgundy refuses to accept her without a dowry. The King of France, paraphrasing the Bible, accepts Cordelia as his true love. Cordelia and France leave the court together. Goneril and Regan are told that Lear will split his time at their homes, retaining one hundred knights as his retinue.

Theme introduced: filial love and devotion.



Cordelia Getting Her Share by Ford Madox Brown

2:4 *King Lear*, Act I, Scene 2, Edmund's soliloquy

Summary: Edmund, the bastard son of Gloucester, muses on the role of being the illegitimate child, and plans to usurp his half-brother Edgar in the affections of their father.

Soliloquy: a speech in a play in which the character is alone on stage expressing his innermost thoughts without addressing the audience.



Shakespeare's Globe
Theatre in a contemporary
engraving.