Task 1 – Who’s who in *King Lear*

*King Lear* is a story about families. Look at the two family trees and complete the sentences with words from the box.

1. King Lear has three …………………………
2. Goneril is Cordelia’s …………………………
3. Regan has two ……………………………
4. Gloucester has two ……………………………
5. Edgar and Edmund are ……………………………
Task 2 – Tragedy or comedy? Reading for gist

Read the text ‘King Lear’s story’ and answer the question. Is the family happy? Underline words which help answer this.

King Lear’s Story

King Lear is old. He wants to give his kingdom to his three daughters. He says he will give the largest part of his kingdom to the daughter who loves him more than the others. He asks his daughters ‘How much do you love me?’

The two older daughters (Goneril and Regan) say they love him more than anything in the world. The younger daughter, Cordelia, says she can’t answer this question. King Lear is very angry and says Cordelia is not his daughter and she must leave the kingdom. Cordelia is sad and goes to France. King Lear wants to live with Goneril, but she does not want him in her house. She sends him to live with Regan. King Lear is very unhappy. He goes to Regan’s house, but Regan does not want her father in her house either.

King Lear becomes mad and he leaves the house. Outside, the weather is cold and there is a lot of rain. In the wood, King Lear meets a young, mad boy called ‘Poor Tom’. Lear thinks they have the same family problems and asks Tom if he has daughters.

Task 3 – True or False

Are these sentences true or false? Check with your partner.

1. King Lear wants to give his kingdom to one daughter. _______
2. Goneril and Regan say they love their father. _______
3. King Lear is happy with all the answers from his daughters. _______
4. King Lear wants Cordelia to stay with him. _______
5. Goneril and Regan do not want King Lear in their house. _______
6. King Lear goes to France. _______
7. King Lear meets a mad boy called Poor Tom. _______
Task 4 – Putting events in order

In pairs look at the pictures from the story of King Lear.
Use the text to help you put them in order and number the boxes.
Task 5 – Telling the story
Join a pair from the Gloucester family group.
Use the pictures and tell them the story of King Lear’s family.
Listen to the story of the Gloucester family. How do the two stories meet?

Task 6 – Predicting the ending of King Lear
Look at these pictures of the tragic main events in the ending of King Lear.
Write the words under the correct pictures. You can use your dictionary to check.
Can you guess which characters match the pictures?

Task 7 – The ending of King Lear
Read the texts and use them to draw lines from the characters to events in the story above. Then share your information with someone from Group B.

1. Edmund finds Cordelia and King Lear and puts them in prison. Cordelia is killed in prison.
   When King Lear hears Cordelia is dead, he is very sad because he knows she loved him most. He dies of sadness in the prison.

2. Goneril and Regan are both in love with Edmund, so Goneril poisons her sister, Regan.
   Goneril’s husband learns that she is in love with Edmund. He is angry, so Goneril kills herself.
Task 8 – Discussing responses

Who is more wrong in this tragedy? The children or the parents?
Talk to your partner and complete the table with your ideas.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Good? Bad? Both?</th>
<th>Why?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King Lear</td>
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<td>Goneril</td>
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<td>Regan</td>
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<td>Cordelia</td>
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<td>Gloucester</td>
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