

## Act IV Questions

1. (4.3) Scene 4.3 does not appear in the folio edition of the play (The folio is the printed version of the play, which was published along with thirty-six of Shakespeare's plays in 1626. We are reading the quarto, the original version, which Shakespeare used for the first performance of *King Lear*, performed for King James on 26 December 1606.). The scene, however, does serve a number of dramatic purposes. What are they? Consider what new information this scene reveals. (At least a full paragraph).
2. (4.4) Cordelia claims that she is leading an invading French army to Britain, not out of a desire for power ("no blown ambition doth our arms incite"), but in order to rescue and support her father. Her lines echo words spoken by Jesus in the New Testament (Luke 2:49). This has led some to see her as a Christ-like figure, one capable of great self-sacrifice in order to redeem and to relieve suffering. What do you think? How does Cordelia's story line, as well as her character, somewhat echo that of Christ's? (At least a full paragraph)
3. (4.6) It appears that both Regan and Goneril want Edmund for a husband. Predict how this will complicate the plot, and predict how this complicated situation will resolve itself. (At least a full paragraph)
4. (4.6) Describe the Dover Cliff incident. (At least a full paragraph)
5. (4.6) Lear in this scene alternates between wisdom and confusion, authority and fragility, clarity and sheer madness. Note that, the Fool being gone, Lear has virtually taken on his role, speaking in riddles. Yet there is wisdom in his imaginings. What do these lines fully reveal about Lear and what is Lear railing against on pages 92-95? (At least a full paragraph)
6. (4.7) Read and summarize 4.7. How has Lear's behavior changed? Why is this change important? If the last 13 lines of the scene were omitted, why might this be a logical place to end the play? (At least a full paragraph)