William Shakespeare's King Lear begins with Lear ignoring the natural order of family inheritance by deciding to divide his kingdom amongst his three daughters before his death. Typical of human nature, Lear is swayed by the sycophantic flattery of his two eldest daughters, Goneril and Regan, while his true and loving daughter, Cordelia, is left out in the cold. The most notable aspect of human nature present in this play is greed, something Lear's two eldest daughters, their husbands, and assuredly Edmund suffer from. Even Lear himself divides his kingdom for a greedy reason, wanting al...

The Necessary Shakespeare. Ed. David Bevington: Pearson. Sound a sennet. The King is coming. Enter one bearing a coronet; then Lear; then the Dukes of Albany and Cornwall; next, Goneril, Regan, Cordelia, with Followers. Lear. Attend the lords of France and Burgundy, Gloucester. Glou. To shake all cares and business from our age, Conferring them on younger strengths while we. Unburthen'd crawl toward death. Our son of Cornwall, And you, our no less loving son of Albany "King Lear" is one of the greatest dramas written by Shakespeare. It is a poetic tragedy in which the good as well as bad characters play their role. Before justifying Cordelia’s death, it is necessary to understand some points of her nature. In the first Act of the Play, when it is Cordelia’s turn to tell her father how much she loves him, she surprises everybody by saying that she has "nothing" to say. In this context when asked by her father if she has really nothing to say, Cordelia repeats the word "nothing". 8. freud thought cordelia symbolized death in King Lear. Freud thought they represented the mythical Three Fates, and that Cordelia was Atropos, the Greek goddess of death, since she refuses to speak when Lear asks her to profess her love. (At the time, psychoanalysts viewed speechlessness in dreams as a signifier of death.) By rejecting Cordelia, the aging king is essenti