

THE KING WHO WOULDN'T LISTEN  
Based on Shakespeare's 'King Lear'

Literacy and Art



TWO  
MINUTE  
TALES  
from  
SHAKESPEARE

*Introduction to Shakespeare's King Lear, reimagined for little ones by Hopster's Two Minute Tales. The King Who Wouldn't Listen tells a two-minute tale about a King and his 3 daughters and teaches the importance of listening to each other.*



**Learning Aim:** To meet key characters, learn about the setting and story plot of The King Who Wouldn't Listen.

**The Play:** King Lear is an elderly king who has decided to retire and wants to divide his kingdom between his three daughters: Regan, Goneril, and Cordelia. Before splitting his kingdom, he asks his daughters to express how much they love him, hoping this will help with his decision.

## KEY CHARACTERS



King Lear



3 Sisters

Regan, Goneril,  
and Cordelia

## THE EPISODE

A stubborn King refuses to listen to reason when splitting a cake with his 3 daughters.

He soon realises the importance of listening to advice.



## KEY THEME: LISTENING TO EACH OTHER

The theme is greed and a reminder of the importance of listening to each other.



## HIDDEN SHAKESPEARE

Somewhere in this episode Shakespeare appears in a jester costume. Can you find it?

**Learning Aim:** To introduce kids to some Shakespearean words and phrases, introduce new vocabulary and accelerate learning with talking points and games.



## LANGUAGE LEARNING GLOSSARY

**Greedy:** Having a great desire or appetite for food

**Selfish:** Thinking only about yourself and not considering others

**Catastrophic:** Disastrous, tragic

**Fond:** Affectionate, loving



## FAMOUS PHRASES

***“Nothing will come of nothing”:***

This saying means that you will gain nothing if you invest nothing.

***“I am a very foolish fond old man”:***

King Lear describes himself as this when he realises how foolish he has been.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How many daughters did King Lear have?  
Can you remember the descriptions of them?
- The King said, ‘Whoever loves me the most will get the most cake.’  
What did his greedy daughter say?
  - How much cake did the first daughter get?
- The King was not a good listener.  
Why do you think it is important to listen to others?
  - What happened to the cake?  
Was it a good end to the story?

## PLAY ‘TELEPHONE’

‘Telephone’ is a great game to help improve kids’ listening skills. Make up a word or sentence and whisper it into your child’s ear, who must whisper it to the person next to them and so on. The last person to hear the message says it out loud.

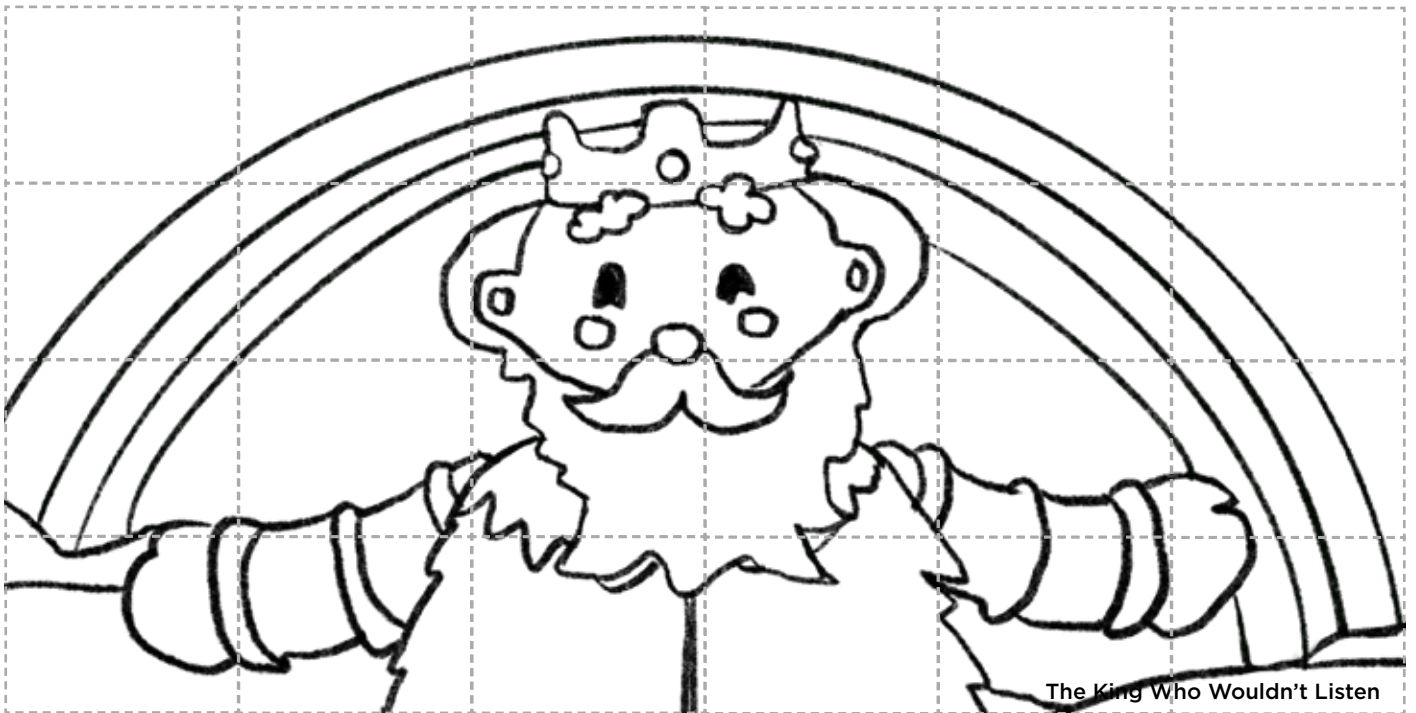


**Instruction:** How many cakes you can find in this image?



The King Who Wouldn't Listen

## JIGSAW



## COLOURING: COLOUR THE THREE SISTERS



**Learning Aim:** To sequence and retell the story of The King Who Wouldn't Listen.

**Learning Purpose:** To deepen the child's understanding of narrative through sequencing the story from beginning to end and to develop confident storytelling using visual prompts.

## STORYTELLING BRIEF

**Materials:** A4 white paper, scissors, printer

After watching the show, sequence the cards in order to retell the story. Let your child think about how the story begins, what happens in the middle and how it ends. Use the cards to retell The King Who Wouldn't Listen together, encourage your kid to use the name of the characters and some new words like greedy and fond.





**Learning Aim:** To make stick puppet characters and use them to retell the story.

**Learning Purpose:** By making stick puppets children will explore characterisation and setting in a fun way. They can use the scenes of the castle to create their own retelling of the story. This will encourage them to think about scene changes and how they can change their voices and expressions to suit the setting.

## ACTIVITY TIME: MAKE YOUR OWN THEATRE, STICK PUPPETS & BACKDROPS

### Instructions:

- 1 - Colour each of the templates for the puppets then use scissors to cut them out.
- 2 - Check that your child can name each puppet.
- 3 - Use glue to attach the puppet to a craft stick.
- 4 - Colour the theatre scenes.



Make a puppet theatre and film it.  
Encourage your child to retell the story of The King Who Wouldn't Listen by using the stick puppets and sets to recreate scenes.

## THE KING WHO WOULDN'T LISTEN

Activity Time: Make Your Own Theatre, Stick Puppets & Backdrops

