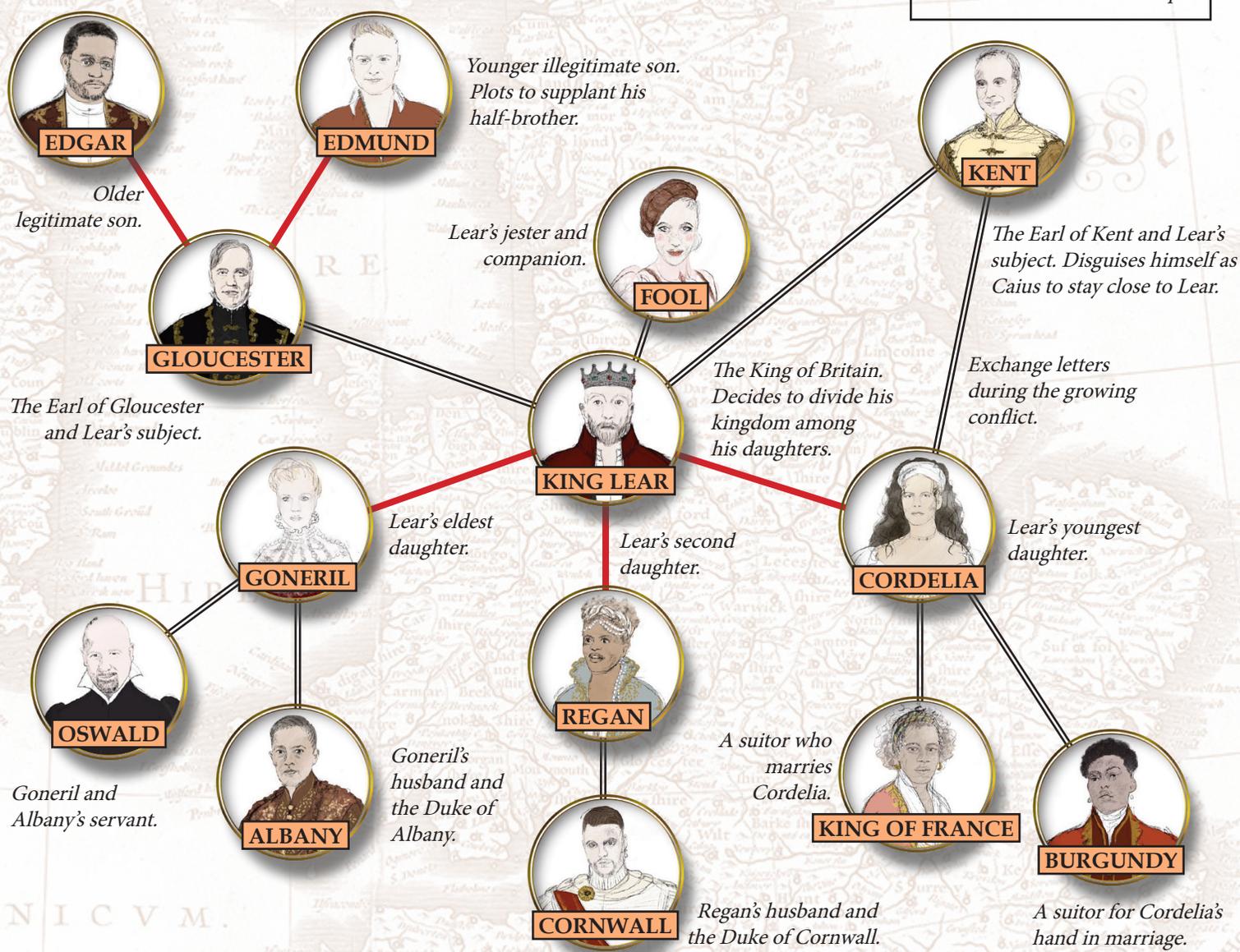


MAJOR CHARACTERS



SYNOPSIS

King Lear has decided to divide and bestow his realm to his three daughters as long as they demonstrate their unconditional love for him. His two older children, **Goneril** and **Regan**, play his game. But the youngest daughter **Cordelia** refuses to flatter him. Outraged, Lear disinherits her, leaving her without a dowry in her marriage to the **King of France**. He also banishes his loyal advisor **Kent** for speaking up against this decision, who then disguises himself as a lowly servant to stay close to his liege. Meanwhile, the bastard **Edmund** single-handedly pulls off a coup, framing his half-brother **Edgar** for treason and usurping his father **Gloucester's** title. Ambitious for power, Edmund hedges his bets by getting romantically involved with both Goneril and Regan, while civil war brews between their husbands the Dukes of **Albany** and **Cornwall**.

By this point, Lear has realized that his daughters no longer respect him nor wish to take care of him in his old age. Hurt and angered, Lear runs out into the wilderness as the dark skies portend a ferocious storm. Meanwhile, the French army has landed in Britain as a third side in the war, led by Cordelia. Danger besets Lear and the other displaced characters as armies clash and the elements rage. Will the kingdom survive this strife? Will loyalty and companionship triumph over deceit and cold calculation? Will Cordelia find her father in time?