

Class Number

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Student Name _____



GAYAZA HIGH SCHOOL

BEGINNING OF TERM 2 EXAMINATIONS 2004

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

PAPER 2 (PLAYS)

S. 5

TIME: 1 Hour

INSTRUCTIONS:

Attempt all questions.

SECTION A

SHAKESPEARE: KING LEAR

Fool: Sirrah, I'll teach thee a speech.

Lear: Do.

Fool: Mark it, nuncle!
Have more than thou showest,
Speak less than thou knowest,
Lend less than thou owest,
Ride more than thou goest,
Learn more than thou trowest,
Set less than thou thowest;
Leave thy drink and thy whore,
And keep in a-door,
And thou shalt have more
Than two tens to a score.

Kent: This is nothing, fool.

Fool: Then 'tis like the breath of an unfed lawyer – you gave me nothing for't. Can you make no use of nothing, nuncle?

Lear: Why, no, boy; nothing can be made out of nothing.

Fool: (To Kent) Prithee tell him, so much the rent of his land comes to. He will not believe a fool.

Lear: A bitter fool!

Fool: Dost thou know the difference, my boy, between a bitter fool and a sweet one?

Lear: No, lad; teach me.

Fool: That lord that counselled thee
To give away thy land,
Come place him here by me –
Do thou for him stand.
The sweet and bitter fool
Will presently appear:
The one in motley here,
The other found out – there!

Lear: Dost thou call me fool, boy?

Fool: All thy other titles thou hast given away; that thou wast born with.

Kent: This is not altogether fool, my lord.

Fool: No, faith, lords and great men will not let me. If I had a monopoly out, they would have part on't; and ladies too, they will not let me have all the fool to myself; they'll be snatching. Nuncle, give me an egg, and I'll give thee two crowns.

Lear: What two crowns shall they be?

Fool: Why, after I have cut the egg i'th' middle and eat up the meat, the two crowns of the egg. When thou clovest thy crown i'th' middle and gav'st away both parts, thou bor'st thine ass on thy back o'er the dirt. Thou hadst little wit in thy bald crown when thou gav'st thy golden one away. If I speak like myself in this, let him be whipped that first finds it so.

(Sings) Fools had ne'er less grace in a year;
For wise men are grown foppish,
And know not how their wits to wear,

Their manners are so apish.

Lear: When were you wont to be so full of songs, Sirrah?

Fool: I have used it, nuncle, e'er since thou mad'st thy daughters thy mothers; for when thou gav'st them the rod and putt'st down thine own breeches.

QUESTIONS

- a) What does the fool offer to give to Lear before this extract? What is his reason for doing so?
- b) What is the significance of the fool's speech?
- c) Which 'other' titles does the fool refer to?
- d) Where else does Lear say that 'nothing can be made out of nothing' and what does he mean then?
- e) How is the image of the egg explained in this text?
- f) What does the fool mean by: "thou gav'st the rod and putt'st down thy own breeches?"
- g) What happens at the end of this scene?