

Figure 3.2. Reading company roles modeled in *King Lear* lesson plans, *Reading Shakespeare Film First*

Literature Circle Roles	Act 1.1
Connector, Illustrator, Questioner, Prophet	Role Modeling Literature Circles with Lear Lesson : Draw your kingdom. Divide it. Who will inherit the divisions? What will you ask for in return?
Illustrator	Pre-reading: Diagram the cast list as a family tree .
Prophet	Pre-reading: Distribute copies of the play's word frequency list composed as a word cloud . In small groups, students write sentences that predict what this play might be about, using words from the cloud.
Vocabularian, Wordsmith, Summarizer, Literary Luminary	Preparing to Read Lear Act 1.1 Lesson : Check for understanding of the multiple meanings of <i>dowry</i> , <i>breed</i> , <i>banish</i> , <i>bond</i> . Introduce high-frequency words. Chunk the scene.
Character Captain	Act 1.1.1-33: Characterize Gloucester. Act 1.1.134-213: Characterize Kent. Throughout the act, we will characterize the sisters, Burgundy, France, and Lear. We will discuss relationships, notably Lear's relationship with Cordelia and his attitude toward her suitors.
Director	Stage direction after line 33: Visualize this entrance as festive, as ceremonial, as tense (Bain 54). Ask questions throughout the reading for staging: Where does Edmond stand as his father jokes about his illegitimacy? Where does Cordelia stand in relation to her sisters? What is Cordelia doing as Lear shames her in front of her suitors?
Questioner	"Love and be silent" (1.1.68): Is there something about love that is essentially inexpressible?
Wordsmith	Monitor the pronoun shifts (the royal <i>we</i> , the 2 nd person familiar) throughout and discuss tone. After first reading, chunk the scene into three chunks that correlate with the shifts from prose to verse to prose. Note repetitions of: <i>nothing</i> , <i>eyes</i> , <i>sight</i> , <i>seeing</i> , <i>see</i> , <i>speak</i> , <i>speech</i> .
Literary Luminary	Kent's pun on the meanings of <i>conceive</i> : 1.1.12 Word families and the language of commerce (<i>dower</i> , <i>price</i> , <i>wealth</i> , etc.): 1.1.215-289 France's antithesis, "Thou art most rich, being poor...": 1.1.290-303 Allusions to Greek and Roman gods
Prophet	Predict the consequences of Lear's love contest: 1.1.37-59 Predict what may happen in this play at the end of act 1.
Summarizer	Postreading: Summarize the scene as a fairy tale / 6 o'clock news / gossip / cartoon / poem or nursery rhyme / rap lyrics.