#### Close reading: King Lear

#### **Reading Edmund**

I, ii, 1-22, pp. 14-15

### **Assessing Edmund**

- ♦ Vice figure in morality play
- ◆ Political philosopher
  - Machiaveli
  - Hobbes

# Introduction to John Locke: conflict in the state

Please see the "House of Stuart Chart" <a href="http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~stephan/Rulers/stuart.html">http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~stephan/Rulers/stuart.html</a> or posted on the Core Weekly calendar

#### A turbulent political period

- ◆ ► Civil War 1642 1649
  - Royalists & Parliamentarians
- ◆ The king—Charles I--was captured and held; all compromise failed; and the king was tried in a specially constructed court, condemned to death, and beheaded on January 31, 1649.

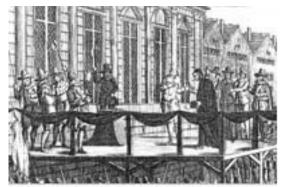
#### Trial of King Charles I

From King Charls his Tryal at the High Court of Justice (London, 1650); John Nalson, A True Copy of the Journal of the High Court of Justice for the Tryal of K. Charles (London, 1684); and John Rushworth, *Historical* Collections, 8 vols. (London 1721-22), Vol. 7. Printed in The Trial of Charles I: A Documentary History, David Lagomarsino and Charles T. Wood, editors, © 1989 by the **Trustees of Dartmouth** College, by permission [to **Norton] of University Press** of New England.



From Norton Topics Online: http://www.wwnorton.com/nael/17 century/topic%5F3/trial.htm

## Charles I - Christian martyr (reigned 1625-49) (lived 1600-1649)

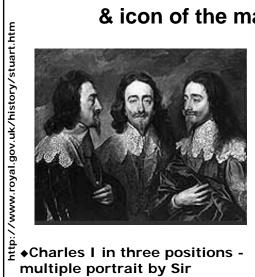


Execution of Charles

On the morning when the king was beheaded, Locke was 17 and at school where he was "within earshot of the awe-stricken crowd" (Laslett, 17).

Source of image: http://www.britannia.com/history/londonhistory/stulon.html

#### **Charles I - Christian martyr** & icon of the martyred king.



multiple portrait by Sir Anthony Van Dyck (1599-1641). © Royal Collection.

The legend about this painting: Bernini "exclaimed that he had never seen a portrait whose countenance showed so much greatness and such marks of sadness: the man who was so strongly charactered and whose dejection was so visible was doomed to be unfortunate." (Qtd. Richard Ollard, The Image of the King, p. 25.)