

## **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"  
<http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~stephan/Rulers/stuart.html>  
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/17century/topic%5F3/trial.htm>

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



Execution of Charles I

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.



<http://www.royal.gov.uk/history/stuart.htm>

◆ Charles I in three positions - 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.)