



Shakespeare, William. *The Tragedie of King Lear*. In *Mr. William Shakespeares comedies, histories, & tragedies: published according to the true originall copies*. London: Isaac Jaggard and Edward Blount, 1623. Folger STC 22273 Fo.1 no. 68

The textual history of *The Tragedy of King Lear* is complicated, from its first printing to how it is edited today. The play first appeared in 1608 as a quarto titled *True Chronicle Historie of the life and death of King Lear* (Q1). That version of the play is in itself confusing: some verse lines are erroneously divided or set as prose, prose lines are sometimes set as verse, and the book went through multiple changes during its press run, correcting mistakes, but also introducing new ones. The play was reprinted in 1619 (Q2), with some additional lineation and word changes. In 1623, the play was included in the First Folio as *The Tragedie of King Lear* (F1). This version of the play is markedly different to Q1: there are about 100 lines that are in F1 but not Q1, and about 300 lines (including the entirety of 4.3) that are in Q1 but omitted in F1; there are also differences in about 800 words between the two versions. Since the eighteenth century, editors have conflated the two versions—combining both texts to produce a play that is different from either Q1 or F1.