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2001 Volume IV: Race and Ethnicity in Contemporary Art and Literature

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## **The Tragic Genre from Classical to Contemporary: King Lear and A Thousand Acres**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 01.04.06  
by Diana Otto

This unit is an introduction to classical, Shakespearean, and modern tragedy. Students will read and contrast Shakespeare's *King Lear* and Jane Smiley's modern retelling in *A Thousand Acres*. Student activities include critical reading, characterization, and a formal comparison/contrast paper of the two works.

(Recommended for English, grades 11-12.)

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