

Spenser, Edmund. *The faerie queene. Disposed into twelue bookes, fashioning XII. morall vertues.* London: Printed [by Richard Field] for VVilliam Ponsonbie, 1596. Folger STC 23082 copy 1

Edmund Spenser's (1552?-1599) epic poem *The Faerie Queene* is a possible source for *The Tragedy of King Lear*. Spenser's version of Lear's story appears in *The Faerie Queene* Book II: Cordelia inherits her father's throne, but is overthrown by her nephews. She then commits suicide by hanging; in Shakespeare's version, Cordelia is executed by hanging.