

**A W A Y**

by Michael Gow

A l t e r n a t i v e F i n a l S c e n e

Please note that this scene is not to be considered as part of the HSC curriculum.

The schoolyard.

MISS LATROBE *looks about her at the morning. The actors, except for TOM, come in.*

MISS LATROBE: I thought I'd bring you all out here under the sun to read this, in my opinion, Shakespeare's greatest tragedy. Now there are many who give *Hamlet* pride of place, but it is the struggle between man and nature, as well as between man and man and between man and himself that makes this, for me, his masterwork. And it is the power of nature, its participation in the drama that made me bring you all outside to commence work on your text for this year. Now settle down [*they sit in a circle*] and we'll continue reading *King Lear* by William Shakespeare. Meg, why don't you go on reading? Pick it up at the King's opening speech.

MEG: 'Meanwhile we shall express our darker purpose.

Give me the map there. Know that we have divided
In three our kingdom; and 'tis our fast intent
To shake all cares and business from our age,
Conferring them on younger strengths, while we
Unburden'd crawl toward death.'

[*They remain still as the lights fade, the closing bars of Mendelssohn's music are heard. Behind them, as in a dream, the lights play on the blue horizon of the sea.*]

THE END

Why did Michael Gow change the ending to *Away*?

Find out here: <http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/media/1976086/changing-the-ending-with-michael-gow>

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