

## THE TEMPEST

Prospero is Duke of Milan and lives alone with his daughter Miranda. He spends his time reading his books instead of ruling Milan so his brother (Sebastian) decides to overthrow him and become the Duke. Prospero and Miranda are taken to sea in the middle of the night and left in a leaky boat. Gonzalo (who lives in Milan) gives them food, water, clothes and Prospero's books to help them. Prospero has magical powers. They arrive on a desert island where they find a young boy called Caliban. He and Miranda are friends as children but when he gets older Prospero treats him as a servant. There is also a magical sprite on the island (Ariel) who Prospero rescued and now he keeps him as a servant.

When Miranda is a teenager Prospero creates a tempest and brings to shore a ship containing Sebastian and several others including the King of Naples and his son Ferdinand. Ariel and Prospero use their magic to place these people in different places around the island. Ferdinand thinks his father the King must have drowned.

Caliban meets two drunkards from the ship and they plot to kill Prospero so that they can rule the island – but their plot fails as they are drunk.

Ferdinand is the first man Miranda has seen except Prospero and Caliban and they fall in love. Prospero pretends to disapprove but secretly he is pleased.

Prospero brings all of the shipwrecked people back together and the King is delighted to see Ferdinand alive and well. Sebastian is ashamed of what he did and Prospero says he will go back to Milan with everyone. Ferdinand and Miranda are to marry.



ACTIVITY: Prospero keeps a diary of their time on the island. Write an entry from his first day there.....Would he be angry at Sebastian still? Relieved they had found an island? Excited to explore? Worried about wild animals?.....

What would Caliban have written in a diary that first day that Prospero and Miranda arrived? Would he have been scared of them? Pleased to have some company?.....

Imagine Miranda is writing about growing up on the island, what does she have to say? Does she remember life in Milan? Is the island all she can remember? How does she feel about Prospero? What does she think about Caliban? Does she hope to get rescued? Is she happy?.....

Now, imagine what Prospero thinks the day he causes the tempest and brings the ship to the island. Is he seeking revenge? Does he want reconciliation with his brother? Is he excited to be going home soon? Does he want to be Duke again?.....

What does Miranda think when she discovers the ship? Is she scared that the people have drown in the sea? Excited that there are new people? Worried that she may have to leave the island? Worried that she may be left behind on the island?

What does Caliban think? The last people to arrive took his island over and made him their servant. Does he fear the new people? Hope they will help him get his island back?

What is going on here in this argument between Prospero and Caliban? What are they saying? Translate it into modern language as if it was happening now, write your version alongside Shakespeare's. Who wins the argument and why?

**PROSPERO** Abhorred slave,  
Which any print of goodness will not take,  
Being capable of all ill! I pitied you,  
Took pains to make you speak, taught you each hour  
One thing or other: when you did not, savage,  
Know your own meaning, but would gabble like  
A thing most brutish, I endowed your purposes  
With words that made them known. But your vile race,  
Though you did learn, had that in it which good natures  
Could not abide to be with; therefore were you  
Deservedly confined into this rock,  
Who had deserved more than a prison.

**CALIBAN** You taught me language; and my profit on it  
Is, I know how to curse. The red plague rid you  
For learning me your language!

**PROSPERO** Hag-seed, hence!  
Fetch us in fuel; and be quick, you are best,  
To answer other business. Shrug you, malice?  
If you neglect or do unwillingly  
What I command, I'll rack you with old cramps,  
Fill all your bones with aches, make you roar  
That beasts shall tremble at you din.

**CALIBAN** No, pray you.



At the end of the play Prospero speaks the final lines, the epilogue. He speaks directly to the audience, what is he saying? Try reading the lines aloud, does it help to make sense of the words? What is he asking the audience to do? How does he feel that the time on the island is coming to an end? Write your version to the left of the text and then the emotions you hear when he speaks to the right of the text.

Now my charms are all o'erthrown,  
And what strength I have's mine own,  
Which is most faint: now, 'tis true,  
I must be here confined by you,  
Or sent to Naples. Let me not,  
Since I have my dukedom got  
And pardon'd the deceiver, dwell  
In this bare island by your spell;  
But release me from my bands  
With the help of your good hands:  
Gentle breath of yours my sails  
Must fill, or else my project fails,  
Which was to please. Now I want  
Spirits to enforce, art to enchant,  
And my ending is despair,  
Unless I be relieved by prayer,  
Which pierces so that it assaults  
Mercy itself and frees all faults.  
As you from crimes would pardon'd be,  
Let your indulgence set me free.

Be not afeard. The isle is full of noises,  
Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not.  
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments  
Will hum about mine ears, and sometime voices  
That, if I then had waked after long sleep  
Will make me sleep again; and then in dreaming  
The clouds methought would open and show riches  
Ready to drop upon me, that when I waked  
I cried to dream again.” Caliban

**Read these quotes and see which of them you like the best and think about what it is you like about it; is it the language, the poetry, the images, do you recognise some of the sayings, how do you think the character says the lines, try reading them out loud in different voices and using different emotions.**

Shakespeare UnBard

“Hell is empty and all the devils are here.” Ariel

“O, wonder!  
How many goodly creatures are there here!  
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world,  
That has such people in’t!” Miranda

“Our revels now are ended. These our actors,  
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and  
Are melted into air, into thin air;  
And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,  
The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,  
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,  
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve;  
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,  
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff  
As dreams are made on, and our little life  
Is rounded with a sleep.” Prospero