



Topic: The Tempest

Year: 8

NC Strand: Shakespeare

What should I already know?

- be able to use basic inference and deductions skills
- be able to select evidence from a text.
- recognise rhythm, particularly *iambic pentameter*
- be able to use retrieval techniques and be able to build upon this when analysing a new text.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

- Background knowledge on Shakespeare, his life and work.
- How to read a play script and understand how stage directions work.
- Life in Renaissance Italy and Shakespearian England
- The methods Shakespeare's uses to engage the audience.
- The patterns of Shakespearian language and know the meaning of simple words such as 'thou', 'thee' and 'art'.
- The outline of the plot of The Tempest
- The symbolism of magic as a plot device
- The central characters, especially: **Prospero, Miranda, Caliban, Ariel** and **Ferdinand**
- To be able to select quotations to support ideas on characters, setting and themes.

Key Characters

Prospero	the rightful Duke of Milan
Miranda	Prospero's daughter
Caliban	a native of the island; a savage and deformed slave of Prospero's;
Ariel	an airy spirit; a slave of Prospero's who earns his freedom
Alonso	The King of Naples
Ferdinand	Alonso's son
Antonio	Prospero's brother. Antonio stole Prospero's title as Duke of Milan.
Gonzalo	The old counsellor to the King of Naples
Trinculo	A Jester
Stephano	A drunken butler

Key Terms

COLONIALISM	When one country establishes itself in another country. When someone colonises a new country, they are called a coloniser . The original inhabitants of the land are called natives .
USURP	To take control of someone else's power when you do not have the right to.
TEMPEST	A violent storm.
TREASON	A crime that harms your country or government. Someone who commits treason is a traitor .
CALLOUS	When someone is cruel and does not care about other people.
PATHOS	A situation that makes us feel sympathy or sorrow.
DUAL NATURE	Having two sides.
NURTURE	To encourage or support the development of someone or something.
TRAGICOMEDY	A play that has some features of a tragedy and some features of a comedy.



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Plot Summary	Key information
<p>The Tempest (I.i) Alonso, the King of Naples, is on a ship with his son Ferdinand and his companions Sebastian, Antonio, Stephano and Trinculo. They are struck by a terrifying, howling storm. They abandon ship and swim to a nearby island but are washed ashore in different places. The island seems to be abandoned.</p>	<p>Shakespeare was born in the Elizabethan era, named after Elizabeth I. After she died, James I became king. This period of history is called the Jacobean era, because Jacob is the Latin for James. Shakespeare lived and worked in both eras.</p> <p>Italian city states - A city-state is an area that is ruled by a major city. During the Elizabethan and Jacobean era, Italy wasn't one unified country, but a number of small independent city-states.</p> <p>Sea exploration was booming in the Elizabethan era as people 'discovered' new parts of the world. Queen Elizabeth I was obsessed with their discoveries and was happy to pay for their travels. Led by her example, the rest of the country were also fascinated by their stories and goods.</p>
<p>After the Storm (I.ii) From a nearby island, Miranda watches the huge tempest. She lives with her father Prospero and has little memory of her life before the island. Prospero tells his daughter of their past: he was the Duke of Milan twelve years ago, but he was so involved with his books and secret studies that he did not realise his brother Antonio was stealing power from him. One night, Antonio ordered soldiers to take Prospero and Miranda and put them on a boat to their death. But they were washed ashore this island safely and have lived there ever since. Prospero has been ruler of the island. Prospero has created the storm to bring his brother to the island.</p>	
<p>Ariel and Caliban (I.ii. cont./II.i) Prospero is a powerful magician who controls the spirit Ariel who completes tasks for him. Prospero has agreed to release Ariel after this last mission. Caliban is a deformed savage slave who is also under Prospero's control. He is the son of an old witch, Sycorax, and is a native of the island. Prospero taught Caliban how to speak but he resents the control Prospero has over him.</p>	
<p>Kind Alonso (II.i) King Alonso and his younger brother Sebastian, as well as Antonio (the usurping Duke of Milan), wander around the island. King Alonso weeps as he believes his son Ferdinand is dead. Sebastian and Antonio plot to kill Alonso so that Sebastian can be king. They are stopped by Ariel's magical intervention.</p>	
<p>Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo (II.ii, III.ii) The monster Caliban is found by Stephano and Trinculo. They give him alcohol to drink and he gets drunk. Caliban offers to serve Stephano because he believes he is a god because of the heavenly drink! Caliban explains to them how Prospero has treated him and that he will be their guide on the island if they overthrow him. The three drunks go to find and kill Prospero.</p>	
<p>Ferdinand and Miranda (I.ii, III.i) Ferdinand has survived the storm. He is safely on the island and is found by Miranda. They fall instantly in love. Prospero wants to test that the love is real. Ferdinand has to endure hard labour to prove his intentions are honourable. Miranda pities Ferdinand and wants to marry him. Prospero blesses their marriage.</p>	
<p>The End (IV.i, V.i) A marriage for Ferdinand and Miranda is arranged and celebrated with a masque attended by spirits. It is interrupted when Prospero recalls the threat from Trinculo, Stephano and Caliban. Prospero and Ariel send spirit dogs to scare them away. King Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio meet Prospero. He explains what has been happening on the island. He shows them Ferdinand and Miranda who are now married. King Alonso is filled with regret and asks for forgiveness from</p>	

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Prospero which he grants.

Epilogue

Prospero declares that he will be giving up his magic. Ariel is released from his service. The party travel back to Milan. We do not know what has happened to Caliban.

Further Reading and extension activities

BBC bitesize: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z37mn39

The Shakespeare Stories by Andrew Mathews and Tony Ross.

- How might the reactions of modern readers be different to Shakespearian readers?
- How would a Shakespearian audience be kept interested without the modern technologies of lighting and special effects?