

# Year 7 – The Tempest – William Shakespeare

## The Plot

- A ship is caught in a tempest and begins to sink.
- Prospero tells Miranda that he caused the storm using Ariel, his magic servant.
- We meet Caliban, Prospero's slave. Caliban's mother Sycorax used to rule the island.
- Ariel fetches Ferdinand, who falls in love with Miranda.
- Antonio and Sebastian plot to kill Alonso, the King of Naples.
- The ship's jester and butler meet Caliban and feed him alcohol.
- Caliban suggests that they should kill Prospero, and Ariel overhears.
- Prospero uses magic to scare Alonso and spoil Caliban's plot.
- Prospero forgives the passengers for their former betrayals.



## Assessment Questions:

**BASELINE:** A student read Act 1 Scene 2 and said: 'I do not sympathise with Caliban. Prospero treated him fairly after he tried to assault Miranda.' To what extent do you agree?

**FINAL ASSESSMENT:** After finishing the *Tempest*, a student said 'Prospero is an irresponsible leader. He doesn't treat the people on the island fairly.' To what extent do you agree?

### Use the key quotes to help you answer:

"You taught me language, and my profit on't/ Is I know how to curse. The red plague rid you/ For learning me your language!" (**Caliban, Act 1, Scene 2**)

"For I am all the subjects that you have,/ Which first was mine own king." (**Caliban, Act 1 Scene 2**)

"If thou more murmur'st, I will rend an oak/ And peg thee in his knotty entrails till/ Thou hast howled away twelve winters" (**Prospero, Act 1 Scene 2**)

"If thou neglect'st or dost unwillingly/ What I command, I'll rack thee with old cramps,/ Fill all thy bones with aches, make thee roar/ That beasts shall tremble at thy din." (**Prospero, Act 1 Scene 2**)

"I prithee/Remember I have done thee worthy service,/ Told thee no lies, made thee no mistakings, served/ Without or grudge or grumbings. Thou did promise/ To bate me a full year." (**Ariel, Act 1 Scene 2**)





There thou mayst brain him/ Having first seized his books, or with a log/ Batter his skull, or paunch him with a stake,/ Or cut his weasand with thy knife. Remember/ First to possess his books, for without them/ He's but a sot, as I am, nor hath not/ One spirit to command. (**Caliban, Act 3 Scene 2**)

"Your charm so strongly works 'em/ That, if you now beheld them, your affections/ Would become tender." (**Ariel, Act 5 Scene 1**)

"The rarer action is/ In virtue than in vengeance. They being penitent,/ The sole drift of my purpose doth extend/ Not a frown further." (**Prospero, Act 5 Scene 1**)

## Character Questions – test yourself

- Why did Prospero and Miranda have to leave Milan?
- Why did Prospero create the storm and cause the shipwreck?
- How did Ariel become the servant of Prospero?
- What are the key differences between Ariel and Caliban?
- Which characters in the play try to usurp their leader?
- Which characters in the play are irresponsible leaders?
- Who in the play is dominant? Who is subservient?

<div> <div>  </div> <div> <div>Power</div> <div>Leadership</div> <div>Morality</div> <div>Responsibility</div> </div> </div> <div>How much power should one person have? What makes a responsible leader? How can we use our power for good? Should we challenge our leaders if they aren't responsible?</div>	
<div>Key Vocabulary</div> <div> <div> <div> <b>Tempestuous</b> - If you describe a situation or relationship as tempestuous, you mean it is stormy, and often characterized by anger.  <i>e.g. The two best friends had a tempestuous relationship; they were always falling out.</i> </div> <div> <b>Usurp</b> – if you usurp someone, it means you take someone’s position of power by force.  <i>e.g. Antonio usurped Prospero as the Duke by forcing him to leave Milan.</i> </div> <div> <b>Enslave</b> – if you enslave someone, it means you make them a slave, forcing them to work without pay. </div> <div> <b>Noble/ Nobility</b> – If someone has noble qualities it means they are morally good, unselfish and brave. If someone is from the nobility it means they are from a high social class.  <i>e.g. He was an upright and noble man who was always willing to help in any way he could.</i> </div> <div> <b>Responsible</b> - If you are responsible for something, it means you are in charge of it and have control over it. <i>e.g. The student council were responsible for making sure that the other students didn’t litter during break or lunch.</i> </div> <div> <b>Imperative</b> - An imperative is an urgent command. Imperative verbs are command verb, <i>e.g. ‘Stop!’</i> </div> <div> <b>Dominant</b> - A dominant person is someone who is more powerful than the others around them.  <i>e.g. Fred dominated the football game, scoring three times throughout the match.</i> </div> <div> <b>Subservient</b> - A subservient person is someone who is less powerful than the others around them.  <i>e.g. Most young people are expected to be subservient to their parents and do what they say.</i> </div> <div> <b>Savage</b> – if you describe someone as savage, you mean they are wild and uncontrollable. </div> <div> <b>Colonialism</b> - When a powerful country has control over a less powerful country, using their resources to increase it’s own power or wealth. </div> <div> <b>Humanity</b> - All the people in the world can be referred to as humanity (as in ‘the human race’). If someone shows humanity, it means they have the quality of being kind, thoughtful, and sympathetic towards others. </div> <div> <b>Conscience</b> – Our conscience is the feeling of guilt that we get when we know that we’ve done something wrong. Our conscience reminds us of our morals. </div> <div> <b>Regicide</b> – If you commit regicide it means you have killed the monarch (the King or Queen). </div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>Key Context</div> <div> <div> Test yourself on the following bits of historical context. </div> <div> <div> <div> <b>Shakespeare</b> was born when <b>Elizabeth I</b> was Queen. Elizabeth I was an incredibly powerful Queen who ruled England for 44 years. When Elizabeth I died in 1603, <b>James I</b> became King. He united England and Scotland, and called himself the first ‘King of Great Britain’. </div> <div>  </div> </div> <div> <div>  </div> <div> Shakespeare’s plays were performed at the <b>Globe Theatre</b>. This was an outdoor theatre which Shakespeare built for his plays to be performed in. Plays were performed very differently in 1610! <b>Women were not allowed to act</b>, so young boys played the female parts. There was no electric lighting so the <b>plays were performed in the daytime</b>. </div> </div> <div> <div> When Elizabeth I was Queen, she wanted to <b>expand her empire</b> and sent explorers to find new places. This benefited her because <b>England could use the resources they discovered to increase it’s own wealth</b>. By the end of Elizabeth’s reign, England controlled India, America, and the West Indies. </div> <div>  </div> </div> <div> <div> Explorers such as <b>Christopher Columbus</b> and <b>Sir Walter Raleigh</b> claimed they ‘discovered’ the new lands they colonized, but really <b>there were already native people living there</b>. When they took over, English colonizers would often enforce Christianity on the people who lived there. While the <b>natives were initially welcoming</b>, when the colonizers started to exploit and enslave them, they would often <b>start to fight back</b>. </div> <div> During the Elizabethan and Jacobean era, <b>men had far more power than women</b>. Men made all the decisions for their daughters and wives, and young women were supposed to treat their father with total respect. For example, <b>a father would decide who his daughter married</b> without letting her have any say in the matter. </div> </div> </div> </div> </div>