



You are here >> Home » Shakespeare Works » Plays » Comedies » The Tempest of Shakespeare Prospero casting the spell that causes a stormSo, The Tempest. Picture this: you're a big-shot Duke, everything's going your way, then bam! Your own brother kicks you out, puts you on a leaky boat with your kid daughter, and sends you off to who-knows-where. Rough stuff. But our guy, Prospero, lands on an island. And here's the kicker, it's magic. Fast forward twelve years, he's basically Gandalf running the place, and guess who sails by? Yep, his rotten brother and the pals who helped him. So, Prospero cooks up a massive storm - the tempest, and crashes their ship. If you want a basic summary of The Tempest, that's the starting pistol: shipwrecked enemies, magic island, and a wizard pulling the strings. Now, Prospero isn't just chilling alone with Miranda, his daughter (who's never seen another dude besides Dad, which makes things interesting later). He's got Ariel, this zippy air spirit who owes him one, doing all the magical heavy lifting. Ariel's desperate for freedom, constantly reminding Prospero about their deal - it's a bit like an employee counting down days to retirement, isn't it? Then there's Caliban. Ah, Caliban. He was there first, the island's native son, now serving Prospero and hating every second of it. Their dynamic is super tense, really makes you think about power, who belongs where, all that messy human stuff. It's not simple; Shakespeare rarely is, bless him. These relationships are the real engine of the play, even more than the spells, I reckon. So yeah, Prospero has his enemies right where he wants them. He could crush them. Easy. But the play isn't just a revenge fantasy, not really. It unfolds into something... else. It's about control, sure - Prospero loves being the puppet master. But it digs into forgiveness too. Like, really digs in. Can you actually forgive someone who ruined your? Watching Prospero wrestle with this, while orchestrating illusions and encounters for everyone else, is fascinating becuase it feels so deeply human, despite all the hocus-pocus. It's that blend - the magic, the very real emotions of betrayal and love and wanting freedom - that makes The Tempest, for my money, one of Shakespeare's most captivating plays. It's got that end-of-anera feel, but the questions it asks? Timeless. Alright, forget just the basic summary of The Tempest plot for a moment. The people really drive this thing. You've got Prospero, the main man pulling strings; his daughter Miranda, seeing it all fresh; Ariel, his restless spirit helper; adn then there's Caliban - always complicated. Knowing them is key. Let's meet 'em properly.Prospero - As the play's central figure, Prospero is the former Duke of Milan. After his brother Antonio overthrew him, Prospero made a life on a secluded island with his daughter, Miranda. His magic allows him to control spirits and create the storm that sets the sto Miranda, has spent nearly all her life on the island. She knows very little of the world beyond its shores, yet her character represents hope for a new start. Ariel - Bound to serve Prospero, Ariel is a spirit who helps carry out his master's plans, yet longs for freedom. Throughout the story, Ariel's tasks reveal the struggle between loyalty and the desire for release. Caliban - The son of the witch Sycorax, Caliban is a native of the island. Although he once helped Prospero, he now resents his control. Caliban's character raises important questions about freedom and power, making him a figure of resistance in the play. Antonio - Prospero's ambitious brother, Antonio, played a role in his overthrow. Unaware that Prospero orchestrated the storm, Antonio arrives on the island with no idea of what awaits. Alonso - As the King of Naples, Alonso aided Antonio in the plot against Prospero. Now, he faces the consequences of those actions as he becomes entangled in Prospero's plans. Ferdinand - Alonso's son, Ferdinand, finds himself separated from the others after the storm. When he meets Miranda, their blossoming love offers a chance for reconciliation and peace. Sebastian - He's King Alonso's brother and quickly shows his nasty side when Antonio suggests murdering the king for the crown. is the kind, loyal old advisor to King Alonso who secretly helped Prospero and Miranda survive exile years ago. He's basically the good guy among the courtiers, always trying to stay positive and do the right thing. Stephano and Trinculo - Bringing humor to the story, Stephano, a drunken butler, and Trinculo, a jester, meet Caliban and come up with a clumsy plan to take over the island. Main Themes in The TempestOkay, look, the story, the basic summary of The Tempest, that's just the starting point, yeah? What really gets interesting are the tangled ideas underneath - serious questions about power, control, choosing forgiveness over revenge, and figuring out what's real versus illusion. Getting into those themes is how we truly get what makes this play more than just island magic: Power and Control - The Tempest addresses how people seek and use power. Prospero's command over the island and its spirits highlights the burden of authority, while his choice to let go of power shows his growth. Forgiveness and Transformation - Throughout The Tempest, letting go plays a key role. Prospero's shift from wanting revenge to choosing mercy demonstrates the strength that comes from being beyond past hurts. Freedom and Bondage - Many characters in The Tempest face different kinds of captivity. Ariel longs for release from Prospero's control, while Caliban wishes to be free from being ruled. Even Prospero is trapped by his own anger until he learns to let go.Magic and Illusion - Like it does in A Midsummer Night's Dream, magic plays a central role in The Tempest, shaping the events of the story. Prospero's spells create illusions that affect the others, showing how reality and fantasy can sometimes blend.New Beginnings - The love between Miranda and Ferdinand points to a fresh start, not just for them but for everyone. Their relationship brings a sense of hope and renewal to the play. The Island - The entire play unfolds on this enchanted island where Prospero and Miranda have lived for years. Filled with mysterious creatures and magical spirits, the island serves as both a refuge and a place of conflict. Here, Prospero's magic dominates, but it is also where he learns to put his powers aside. The shipwreck - The play begins with a shipwreck caused by Prospero's magic. follow.Continuing our summary of The Tempest, Shakespeare wrote his play around 1610-1611, during a time when England was expanding its reach across the seas. Themes of exploration, power, and new lands appear throughout the story, showing the interests of the period. supernatural that was common in the early 1600s.Dates:1610-1611 - The Tempest is believed to have been written and first performed.1623 - The play appears in the First Folio, ensuring its preservation as one of Shakespeare's works. In this summary of The Tempest, we follow Prospero, who has lived on an island for 12 years with his daughter, Miranda. He was once the Duke of Milan, but his brother Antonio betrayed him and took his title. Now, Prospero uses magic to control spirits like Ariel and has created a powerful storm to shipwreck, the survivors find themselves scattered across the island. Ferdinand, Alonso's son, ends up alone and meets Miranda. The two quickly fall in love, bringing a sense of hope to the isolated island. Meanwhile, Ariel, following Prospero's orders, uses illusions to guide the others to different parts of the island, creating confusion and fear among them. The Tempest - Prospero and Ariel conjure a magical vision for Ferdinand and Miranda - Act IV, Scene ICaliban, who resents Prospero's control, encounters Stephano and Trinculo, and together they plot to overthrow Prospero. However, their foolishness prevents their plan from becoming a real threat. Their antics add humor to the play, illustrating how power can be sought but not always gained. As events unfold, Prospero begins to see things differently. Ariel reminds him of the importance of compassion, which leads Prospero to reconsider his desire for revenge. Instead of punishing his enemies, he decides to forgive them. In the end, he releases his magic, frees Ariel, and accepts Caliban's return to the island's care. When Prospero reveals himself to Antonio and Alonso, they are surprised to see him alive. He forgives them and prepares to return to Milan with Miranda and Ferdinand. As Prospero gets ready to leave the island, he reflects on the nature of power, freedom, and the magic sure, the shipwrecks, the weird island - which, by the way, is kind of a character itself, beautiful one minute, scary the next, makes you think about how we treat nature, doesn't it? Prospero's got spirits on speed dial, controlling the weather... but is that the point? I really don't think so. To me, the real magic, the stuff that makes it more than just a fantasy tale, is how it dives headfirst into forgiveness. Real, gritty, difficult forgiveness, not the easy kind. Think about it: Prospero has his enemies literally washed up at his feet. Total power. He could make them suffer endlessly. And he does put them through the wringer a bit, lets be honest. But in the end... he lets it go. He chooses mercy. And that moment, that decision to give up the anger, the need for revenge, even his magic - wow. That's the core of it for me, much more than any basic summary of The Tempest plot points. It suggests something pretty profound about what real strength looks like. Maybe it isn't about controlling everything and everyone, but about controlling yourself, choosing understanding over bitterness. Don't we all face versions of that choice, figuring out when to hold on tight and when it's time, finally, to just... release?So, yeah. It's a play about power - political power, the power dynamics between people like Prospero and Caliban (which is a whole tangled discussion!). But it's also deeply about the limits of power, and the freedom found in letting go. The island becomes this strange stage where everyone confronts their past and maybe, just maybe, finds a different way forward. Shakespeare, in his wisdom, seems to show us that stepping away from vengeance, embracing the future, messy as it might be - that's where the true transformation happens. It leaves you thinking, this one. It really does. Hey, It's Antonio, Duke of Milan; and Alonso, King of Naples back from a wedding in Tunis. I expect that's why they're puking over the side. No! It's a storm! And the ship's broken apartand they've all drowned. No they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm, raised by the wizard Prospero, who used to be theDuke of Milan, until his brother Antonio, helped by Alonso, exiled him. And here he is, with his daughter Miranda, his magical spirit Ariel, and his nasty slave Caliban, who used to live on this island alone -until Prospero was marooned here. They used to get along, but - yeeeaah -that's why they fell out.So, Ariel saved everybody. Including Ferdinand, Alonso's son, who is lured towards Prospero and Miranda! The kids fall instantly in love! Meanwhile, The Duke Antonio and King Alonso's son, who is lured towards Prospero and Miranda! The kids fall instantly in love! Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a scene under a cloak with a jester called Trinculo, a drunk butler called Stephano, and a bottle of booze. At the end of it, Caliban thinksStephano is a god! These crazy guys attempt to overthrow Prospero. Meanwhile Miranda proposes marriage to Ferdinand! Prospero's all UUUHH. Cute. But not for long. It's wizard revenge. time!He lures Antonio and Alonso to a magical banquetand Ariel changes herself into a big nasty bird lady. Meanwhile, Miranda and Ferdinand get married andProspero invites Greek Gods along! Clever. Just think of Presents! Meanwhile ... what is this!?! Meanwhile Island? Meanwhile Caliban's crazies are all off to kill Prospero, so Ariel distracts them with magical clothes and then chases them awaywith spirit dogs. And at last Prospero reveals himself and gives his broAntonio and King Alonso a big telling off, then forgives them. He releases Ariel from serving him, frees Caliban. And everybody gets back in the mended ship. He says goodbye to his magical staff and books. Hang on, is that...? Nah. Can't be.Next Year! Ibiza! A ship is caught in a tempest and begins to sink.Prospero tells Miranda that he caused the storm. 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. Back to top This play starts dramatically with a ship being tossed around by waves in a violent storm. The stage directions tell us that 'thunder and lightning' are heard. On board the ship is King Alonso of Naples who is heading home from his daughter's wedding in Tunis. He is accompanied by his son Ferdinand, and his friends Sebastian, Antonio and Gonzalo. As the storm worsens, the boat safe. Antonio and Sebastian curse the Sorry, something went wrongCheck your connection, refresh the page and try again., who suggests they do some work or be quiet. The opening scene ends with cries of panic and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm. She worries for the 'poor souls' onboard. Prospero instructs her to be calm as his magic powers have ensured that the passengers are safe. He then tells her about their past. Twelve years earlier Prospero was the Duke of Milan and Miranda was a princess. However, they were betrayed by his brother, Antonio, and the King of Naples, who sent Prospero and his daughter away on a 'rotten carcass' of a boat. The two washed up on the island and since then, Prospero has spent his time learning powerful magic. He controls Ariel, a sprite, and Caliban, his servant and son of the witch Sycorax. He says it is fortunate that his enemies are now stranded on the island following the shipwreck. Did you know? When this play was written, it was common for people to believe in magic and witchcraft. Prospero would have seemed like a very powerful and even frightening figure to an audience then. Back to topAfter telling his story, Prospero puts Miranda under a sleeping spell and talks to his servant, Ariel. passengers safely on different parts of the island. He has left the King's son, Ferdinand, by himself. Ariel asks for his freedom in return for all the 'worthy service' he has done for Prospero orders his 'poisonous slave' Caliban to fetch more firewood. Caliban curses his master, but has to obey because he is afraid of Prospero's magic 'art'. We learn that Caliban inhabited the island long before Prospero arrived. Ariel then uses magical music to lure Ferdinand to Prospero. When Miranda first sees him she is convinced he is a spirit and the two fall instantly in love. Back to topAlonso (King of Naples), Sebastian (his brother), Antonio (Prospero's brother) and Gonzalo (a kind nobleman) are stranded on another part of the island. Alonso is upset because he believes his son is dead. Ariel, invisible to the other characters, plays 'solemn music' which sends everyone to sleep apart from Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio. Alonso starts to feel 'wondrous heavy' and the others promise to guard him while he takes a rest. Antonio suggests that this is an opportunity for Sebastian would be next in line to rule Naples. They draw their swords planning to kill Alonso and Gonzalo assess that this is an opportunity for Sebastian would be next in line to rule Naples. they sleep. However, Ariel returns and awakens Gonzalo and the King. Sebastian and Antonio pretend their swords are drawn because they heard a noise like a 'whole herd of lions'. Back to topElsewhere on the island, Caliban hides under his cloak. Trinculo wonders whether the 'monster' under the cloak is an islander. When the storm starts again he decides to take shelter under Caliban's mouth and then Trinculo's. Trinculo recogniseses, drinking and singing. He thinks the cloak hides a monster with 'four legs' and feeds wine first into Caliban's mouth and then Trinculo's. Stephano and the two dance about joyfully. Caliban praises Stephano and calls him a god. He promises to show them all the best parts of the island and promises to serve them. Ironically he then sings about his freedom from Prospero. Meanwhile, Ferdinand is collecting logs and working hard to prove to Prospero that he is a worthy match for his freedom from Prospero. Meanwhile, Ferdinand is collecting logs and working hard to prove to Prospero that he is a worthy match for his freedom from Prospero. daughter. Miranda proposes marriage to Ferdinand and he accepts. Did you know? It would have been unusual for a young woman to propose marriage in Shakespeare's day. Women were seen as the property of their fathers and husbands, so Miranda's proposal could be interpreted as brave, inappropriate or funny, depending on the performance. Back to topTrinculo, Caliban and Stephano are now drunk and Caliban pledges his allegiance to Stephano. Ariel plays tricks by impersonating their voices and causes the three to argue. Caliban persuades Stephano that he should kill Prospero and become lord of the island. They plot to approach Prospero during his afternoon nap and 'brain him' after taking his books. Caliban says that Stephano could take Prospero's beautiful daughter as his queen of the island. Ariel overhears this plan and declares that he will tell his master. He plays mysterious music which the three drunken plotters follow. Back to topAs Alonso and his party continue to search for Ferdinand, Prospero preparestation search for Ferdinand eclares that he will tell his master. an imaginary banquet for them. Ariel appears as a harpyA monster from Greek mythology with a woman's head and claws, wings and tail. They are terrified by the vision and run away. Prospero agrees that Ferdinand may take his daughter as his wife, but insists they must be officially married. Prospero asks Ariel to bring all the spirits together and prepare a celebration for the couple. A series of nymphs appear to distract Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo. As they marvel at the clothes, a 'noise of hunters' is heard and a pack of spirits shaped like hounds chase the plotters away. Back to topAriel explains to Prospero sends Ariel to fetch them. Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio cannot believe that Prospero is alive. Prospero sends of the men in turn, reminds them of their sins and then forgives them. Alonso is repentant and reinstates Prospero as Duke of Milan. Antonio says nothing. Alonso is delighted when Prospero reveals that his son, Ferdinand, is alive and engaged to Miranda. Ariel disappears to magically repair the ship and fetch the crew. Ariel then brings in Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo, wearing their stolen clothes. Prospero forgives Caliban and with a final request for 'calm seas' and kind winds, he sets Ariel free. In his closing speech Prospero says he is finished with magic and asks the audience for his own forgiveness and freedom. Did you know? The Tempest is one of the final plays that Shakespeare wrote. This has led some readers to interpret Prospero's monologueA speech by a single person, speaking alone, often revealing something about their past or personality. as a sort of retirement speech from Shakespeare himself. They see the magic as representing Shakespeare himself. of men are shipwrecked on a magical island and tormented by an old man and his slaves. The Tempest SummaryProspero uses magic to conjure a storm and torment the survivors of a shipwreck, including the King of Naples and Prospero's treacherous brother, Antonio. Prospero's slave, Caliban, plots to rid himself of his master, but is thwarted by Prospero's spirit-servant Ariel. The King's young son Ferdinand, thought to be dead, falls in love with Prospero grants Ariel his freedom and prepares to leave the island. More detail: 2 minute readAct IClose to a Mediterranean island, a storm overcomes a ship that carries King Alonso of Naples, his son Ferdinand, and his brother Sebastian. They were on their way home home from Tunis to Italy when the storm hit and demolished their ship. Gonzalo, and the Duke of Milan, Antonio. Greg Wyatt Sculpture of The Tempest in the gardens of Shakespeare's New Place From the island, Prospero, the former Duke of Milan, watches the storm and shipwreck with his 15 year-old daughter, Miranda. Miranda fears for the ship's crew, but Prospero assures her that everything is fine. He decides to open up about his past, telling her how 12 years previously, his brother Antonio had deposed him in a coup. With the aid of Gonzalo, Prospero had escaped in a boat with the infant Miranda and his books of magic. They travelled to the island, made it their home, and enslaved the only other inhabitants of the island are the spirits including Ariel, whom Prospero had rescued from imprisonment in a tree. Since Antonio was on the boat that is now shipwrecked, Prospero discusses his role in the shipwrecked, Prospero discusses his role in the shipwrecked, Prospero discusses his role in the shipwreck with Ariel. Company, 1998 The courtiers from the ship are cast ashore unharmed. But the King is near despair, believing that Ferdinand and forces him to carry wood. In the meantime, Ariel seeks his freedom. Prospero promises that he will liberate Ariel from servitude following the completion of just a few more tasks (typical). O brave new world that has such people in't! — The Tempest, Act 5 Scene 1 Ariel uses music to lead the courtiers astray, while Sebastian and Antonio plot to kill the King while he is asleep. Their attempt is foiled by Ariel. All the people from the ship become ever more confused as they wander around. In another part of the island, the timid court fool, Trinculo, has come ashore and discovered Caliban. Trinculo hides beside Caliban. Trinculo hides beside Caliban. Trinculo, at Caliban's suggestion, intend to kill Prospero and make Stephano lord of the island. They get very drunk before setting off to the cell to kill Prospero has relented and gives his blessing for Ferdinand and Miranda's marriage. Then he entertains them with a masque of goddesses and dancing reapers before he remembers Caliban's plots. Prospero and Ariel then set a trap for the plot and become distracted by gaudy clothes hung out for them. After they touch the clothing, they are chased away by spirits disguised as dogs. Royal Shakespeare Company, 2006 We are such stuff As dreams are made on — The Tempest, Act 4 Scene 1 Ariel brings all the courtiers to the cell where Prospero, renouncing his magic, reveals himself. Instead of enacting his revenge, he forgives them and accepts the return of his dukedom. Ferdinand and Miranda are betrothed. Sailors come to announce that the ship is safe. Prospero fulfils his promise and frees Ariel while Caliban and the drunken servants are rebuked. The play ends as all go to celebrate their reunions, and Prospero asks the audience to release him from the play. Let your indulgence set me free — The Tempest, Act 5 Epilogue For additional reading, see our blogs on The TempestLearn what Shakespeare has to say on the subject of life in The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakespeare Quotes on Life Here is a brief The Tempest and other plays: Shakes Milanese courtier, Gonzalo, is also on board. The ship is wrecked in a storm and all the passengers and crew are thrown into the furious sea. Prospero, the former Duke of Milan, and his fifteen year-old daughter, Miranda, are watching the shipwreck from an island. He tells her, for the first time, how they came to be on the island. Twelve years before, when he had been Duke of Milan, his brother Antonio had usurped him, but with Gonzalo's help, he had escaped in a small boat with his baby daughter, Miranda, and his library of books about magic. They had ended up on the island and Prospero had turned the only inhabitant, Caliban, a deformed and savage creature, into his slave. There are also spirits on the island. One of them, Ariel, had been imprisoned in a tree trunk by Caliban's mother, the witch, Sycorax, who had then died. Prospero used his magic abilities to rescue him and he made the spirit swear to serve him. The ship's passengers are cast upon the island unharmed, and even their clothes are not wet or damaged. Alonso believes his son to be dead, but Ferdinand has landed on another part of the island. He encounters Miranda and they fall in love at first sight. He is the first man, apart from her father and Caliban that she has ever seen. Prospero puts Ferdinand to work manually, controlling all his movements with magic. Ariel pesters Prospero for his freedom and it once he has done some things for him, regarding the newcomers. Ariel leads the party towards Prospero's cell. During this journey, Antonio and Sebastian plan to kill Alonso so that Sebastian can be king. Two other members of the party, Trinculo, the court jester, and Stephano, a boisterous butler, are also wanderin the island. Caliban recruits them to help him overthrow Prospero. They all get drunk then set off for Prospero's cell. Ariel reports the plot to Prospero has released Ferdinand and given his blessing to the marriage of the two young people. When the three would-be usurpers arrive at his cell they are distracted by some brightly coloured clothes that have been hung out for them, then they are chased away by a band of spirits who have taken on the form of dogs. Ariel brings the party to the cell. Prospero renounces his magic and reveals himself. He forgives his brother and prepares to return to Milan to resume his dukedom. Miranda and Ferdinand are betrothed. Sailors arrive and announce that the ship hasn't been wrecked after all, and is safely anchored off the island. Ariel is set free. Caliban and the drunken servants are also forgiven. There is a final celebration of their reunion. And that's a quick The Tempest summary. What are your thoughts - anything unclear, or missing? Please let us know in the comments section below. See summaries of Shakespeare's other plays >> The Tempest is a romance of the highest order, beginning with a marriage. The play follows the banished magician Prospero as he seizes the opportunity to gain back his dukedom from his deceitful brother. A ship is caught in a terrible storm. It becomes clear that the ship is carrying the king of Naples, Alonso; his son, Ferdinand; and the Duke of Milan, Antonio. They are returning from Tunis, where they watched the king's daughter Claribel get married to the Tunisian king. The ship is struck by lightning and they, despairing, sink. On shore, Miranda begs her magician father, Prospero, to save the drowning sailors. He tells her not to worry and instead recalls to her the story of their arrival on this island when Miranda was only three. Prospero introduces his story at great length, which he has started telling her before but has never finished, and continually prompts Miranda to make sure she is paying attention. Prospero was the rightful duke of Milan but his brother Antonio betraved him, usurped his dukedom, and sent Prospero and Miranda off in a boat. Luckily for them, the faithful councilor Gonzalo snuck them supplies and even Prospero's beloved library. Prospero and his daughter found themselves on this island and have lived there ever since. When he finishes the story, Prospero puts Miranda to sleep with a spell and speaks to Ariel, a spirit he enslaves. Ariel informs him all the sailors are safe on shore in separate groups, including the king's son, who is alone and weeping. When Ariel how he freed him from his imprisonment by Sycorax, the witch who ruled the island before her death. However, Prospero acknowledges Ariel's claim and promises him freedom, again, in return for a final few favors. Prospero wakes Miranda up to accompany him to Caliban, Sycorax's son and a fearsome figure. In their conversation with Caliban, it is revealed that Prospero tried to treat Caliban well, but the witch's son attempted to force himself on Miranda while she was teaching him English. Since then, he has been imprisoned, treated as an enslaved man, and denigrated. Ariel then lures Ferdinand with music to Miranda; the two youths fall in love at first sight, with Miranda admitting she has only ever seen two men before (her father and Caliban). Prospero acknowledges in an aside this was his plan; however, when he returns to the group, he accuses Ferdinand of being a spy and makes him work for his daughter's hand, with the intention that the prince will honor a hard-won prize more. thinks is drowned. Sebastian and Antonio joke lightheartedly. Ariel, apparently enacting Prospero's plan, charms everyone but Sebastian to murder his brother Alonso and become king of Naples himself. Slowly convinced, Sebastian draws his sword to kill Alonso—but Ariel wakes everyone up. The two men pretend they heard a noise in the woods, and the group decides to search for the prince's body. Caliban enters, carrying wood. He spots Trinculo, an Italian sailor and jester, and pretends to sleep so he will not be bothered by the young man. Trinculo, despairing of the weather, hides under Caliban's cloak, but not before gaping at the strangeness of Caliban's body. Stephano enters, drinking and marveling at his luck in finding the wine from the ship's cargo. He and Trinculo have a spirited reunion; Caliban reveals himself but cowers away from them, fearing that they will scole him like Prospero does. Instead, Stephano offers him wine, and the three become drunk. Ferdinand is lugging logs, apparently at Prospero's bidding, while Miranda comforts him during his hard work. He puts on a bit of a show here, and Miranda offers to relieve him of his fatigue by hauling the logs for him, an offer which he quickly refuses. They profess their love for each other, and Miranda prompts him into proposing. Prospero watches on, approvingly, from afar. Things are going according to plan. Caliban tells Stephano of Prospero, and, drunk, offers him his loyalty if they agree to murder the wizard. Ariel plays with them during his story, making them think Trinculo says "Thou liest," when he is actually silent, causing Stephano humorously to align himself with Caliban above his Italian shipmate Trinculo. The king's group is weary, and they rest. They are shocked, however, when a host of spirits suddenly brings in an exquisite banquet, and then vanish suddenly. Ariel enters as a harpy and soliloquizes to remind them of their betrayal of Prospero. He too vanishes in thunder. Alonso is disturbed by this apparition, and suggests aloud that his guilt in the betrayal of Prospero has led to punishment in the form of his son's death. Prospero accepts Ferdinand's proposal to Miranda, but warns them not to consummate their union until after their marriage. He calls on Ariel to perform a blessing of the union, bringing about a scene that resembles a masque, a Renaissanceera show of music, dance, and drama. In this case, Iris, the Greek messenger goddess, introduces Ceres, the goddess of the harvest (played by Ariel), who blesses the union in terms of natural bounty, as spirits dance. Often a Renaissance masque performance would begin with an "anti-masque" of disordered singing and dancing, which would be swept away by the masque itself in an assertion of orderliness. In this case, the anti-masque could be seen as the shipwreck scene in the beginning and its breakdown of normal authority. Meanwhile, the masque scene itself can be read as Prospero's assertion of a restoration of order, summed up here in his daughter's betrothal to the prince of Naples. In this way, even the structure of the play closely follows Prospero's assertion of his own power and control against chaos. In any case, in a rare moment of surprise and powerlessness, Prospero takes the threat that Caliban poses. But he has remembered just in time. Trinculo, Stephano, and Caliban find themselves in Prospero's dwelling, still drunk and trying on Prospero's dwelling, still drunk and trying on Prospero's dwelling. reaffirms his intention to do so. Prospero explains that his anger against his brother, the king, and their courtiers has lessened, now that they are all under Prospero's spell. Ariel helps to clothe Prospero in his raiment as Duke of Milan. Prospero orders him to fetch the boatswain and the ship's master, who are still alive on the island, as well as Stephano, Trinculo, and Caliban. The courtiers awaken, and Prospero presents himself as Duke of Milan, to their amazement. Alonso asks how he survived his banishment—unlike his son Ferdinand. Prospero says that he has also lost his daughter though Alonso has no idea he means that he gave her away in marriage. Alonso bemoans their mutual suffering, and wishes that their children could be king and queen in Naples. In response, Prospero brings them to the merry couple, who sit playing chess. Amongst their celebration, Alonso bestows a joyful blessing on the couple. The ship's master, the boatswain, Trinculo, Stephano, and Caliban (who is now sober, and stunned at his foolishness) arrive with Ariel, to be set free by Prospero invites the group to stay the night and to hear the tale of his survival. Then, he says, they will sail to Naples to see Miranda and Ferdinand married, and he will take up his dukedom in Milan once more. As his last order to Ariel, he asks for swift winds and fair weather; then the spirit will finally be free, once Prospero admits his charms are all over, thereby suggesting that the play was an enchantment. He indicates coyly that he can only escape of him. The play ends with his soliloquy, in which Prospero admits his charms are all over, thereby suggesting that the play was an enchantment. He indicates coyly that he can only escape of him. the island himself if the audience sends him off with grateful applause. Prospero uses magic to create a storm, setting the stage for the play's events on an island. Caliban, a native of the island, challenges Prospero's control, raising questions of power and justice. Prospero learns to forgive his enemies, highlighting the play's theme of redemption and reconciliation. "The Tempest," written in 1611, is said to be William Shakespeare's last play. It is a tale of magic, power, and justice, and some readings even see it as Shakespeare's way of taking his own final bow. To touch on the most important aspects of this iconic play, here is a summary of "The Tempest." "The Tempest" begins on a boat being tossed about in a storm. Aboard are Alonso (the King of Naples), Ferdinand (his son), Sebastian (his brother), Antonio (the usurping Duke of Milan), Gonzalo, Adrian, Francisco, Trinculo, and Stefano. Miranda, who has been watching the ship at sea, is distraught at the thought of lost lives. The storm was created by her father, the magical Prospero, who reassures her that all will be well. Prospero then explains how the two of them came to live on this island: They were once part of Milan's nobility—he was a Duke—and Miranda lived a life of luxury. However, Prospero's brother usurped him and exiled them. They were placed on a boat, never to be seen again. Then, Prospero summons Ariel, his servant spirit. Ariel explains that he has carried out Prospero decides to visit his other servant spirit. Ariel asks when he will be freed, but Prospero tells him off for being ungrateful, promising to free him soon. Prospero decides to visit his other servant Caliban, but Miranda is reluctant—she describes him as a monster. Prospero and Miranda meet Caliban, we learn that he is native to the island, but Prospero enslaved him. This raises issues of morality and fairness in the play. Ferdinand stumbles across Miranda and, much to Prospero's annoyance, they fall in love and decide to marry. Prospero warns Miranda off and decides to test Ferdinand's loyalty. The rest of the shipwrecked crew are drinking to simultaneously celebrate their survival and grieve for lost loved ones, as Alonso believes that he has lost his beloved son, Ferdinand. Stefano, Alonso's drunken butler, discovers Caliban in a glade. Caliban describes Prospero's cruelty and persuades Stefano to murder him by promising that Stefano can marry Miranda and rule the island. The other shipwreck survivors have been trekking across the island and stop to rest. Ariel casts a spell on Alonso, Sebastian, and Antonio and derides them for their previous treatment of Prospero. Gonzalo and the others think that the spellbound men are suffering from the guilt of their past actions and promise to protect them from doing anything impulsive. Prospero finally concedes and agrees to the marriage of Miranda and Ferdinand and goes off to foil Caliban's murderous plot. He orders Ariel to hang out beautiful clothes, they decide to steal them—Prospero arranges for goblins to "grind their joints" as punishment. At the end of the end of the clothes, they decide to steal them—Prospero arranges for goblins to "grind their joints" as punishment. At the end of the end of the clothes, they decide to steal them and Stefano discover the clothes, they decide to steal them. play, Prospero has forgiven his countrymen, pardoned Caliban, and promised to set Ariel free after he helps the ship leave the island. Prospero also breaks his magical staff and buries it, and tosses his book of magic into the sea. All of these things redeem his earlier behaviors and hearken back to the belief that he's not truly evil. The last thing Prospero does in the play is to ask the audience to set him free from the island with their applause, for the first time leaving his future in the hands of others. While Prospero can be viewed as an evil character, he is more complex that he conjures to shipwreck his countrymen is often said to be a physical manifestation of Prospero's anger. Still, he doesn't kill any of his countrymen despite having the opportunity, and he even eventually forgives them. Miranda represents purity. Prospero is obsessed with keeping her virginity intact and ensuring that when she is finally handed over to Ferdinand. her new husband will honor and treasure her. Miranda is often seen as a very innocent character and the antithesis of the witch Sycorax, the mother he is human or monster. Some scholars believe that Caliban is an evil character because he has tried to rape Miranda in the past, is the son of the Devil, and plots with Stefano to kill Prospero. Others say that Caliban is merely a product of his birth and that it is not his fault who his parents were. Many also view Prospero's mistreatment of Caliban is a product of his birth and that it is not his fault who his parents were. Many also view Prospero's mistreatment of Caliban is a product of his birth and that it is not his fault who his parents were. magical spirit that inhabited the island long before anyone else. He uses male pronouns but is a gender-ambiguous character. Sycorax imprisoned Ariel in a tree when he refused to do Sycorax's bidding because Ariel viewed her desires as evil. island. At his core, Ariel is a kind, empathetic creature, sometimes viewed as being angelic. He cares for humans and helps Prospero may very well have remained a bitter, angry man on his island forever. One of the major themes from this play is the belief in the soul as three parts. Plato called this the "tripartite of the soul," and it was a very commonly held belief in the Renaissance. The idea is that Prospero, Caliban, and Ariel are all a part of one person (Prospero). Sigmund Freud later adopted this concept into his id, ego, and superego theory. By this theory, Caliban represents the "id" (the child), Prospero the ego (the adult), and Ariel the same actor playing all three roles, and it is only when all three characters can come to the same conclusion (forgiveness) that the three factions are brought together. When this happens to Prospero-when the three parts of his soul unite-he can finally move on. In "The Tempest," Shakespeare demonstrates power and its misuse by creating dynamics in which some characters are in control of others. Characters battle for control over both each other and the island, perhaps an echo of England's colonial expansion in Shakespeare's time. With the island in colonial dispute, the audience is asked to question who the rightful owner of the island is: Prospero, Caliban, or Sycorax—the original colonizer from Algiers who performed "evil deeds." "The Tempest" takes place in 17th century England, when colonialism was a dominant and accepted practice, particularly among European nations. This is also contemporary with Shakespeare's writing of the play. It is no coincidence, therefore, that the plot shows the deep influence of colonialism, especially in terms of Prospero's actions: He arrives at Sycorax's island, subdues it, and imposes his own culture on its inhabitants while calling them undignified and savage. Shakespeare also seems also to have drawn on Michel de Montaigne's essay "Of the Cannibals," which was translated into English in 1603. The name "Caliban" may have been influenced by 1610 document "A True Declaration of the Estate of the Colonie in Virginia," which describes the adventures of some sailors who had returned from the Americas. As with all of his plays, Shakespeare's "The Tempest" contains plenty of pithy, striking, and moving quotes. These are a few that set up the play. "A pox o' your throat, you bawling, blasphemous, incharitable dog!" (Sebastian; Act 1, Scene 1) "Now would I give a thousand furlongs of sea for an acre of barren ground: long heath, broom, furze, anything. The wills above be done, but I would fain die a dry death" (Gonzalo; Act 1, Scene 2) "In my false brotherAwakened an evil nature, and my trust, Like a good parent, did beget of himA falsehood in its contrary as greatAs my trust was, which had indeed no limit, A confidence sans bound." (Prospero; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Good wombs have borne bad sons." (Miranda; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." (Ariel; Act 1, Scene 2) "Hell is empty, And all the devils are here." 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It was a magical storm, raised by the wizard Prospero, who used to be the Duke of Milan, until his brother Antonio, helped by Alonso, exiled him. And here he is a magical storm and they've all drowned. No they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they've all drowned. No they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they've all drowned. No they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they've all drowned. No they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they've all drowned. No they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't! Whattayaknow! It was a magical storm and they haven't was a magical storm and they haven' with his daughter Miranda, his magical spirit Ariel, and his nasty slave Caliban, who used to live on this island alone -until Prospero was marooned here. They used to get along, but - yeeeaah -that's why they fell out. So, Ariel saved everybody. Including Ferdinand, Alonso's son, who is lured towards Prospero and Miranda! The kids fall instantly in love!Meanwhile, The Duke Antonio and King Alonso are wanderingabout with their servants, Sebastian and Gonzalo.There's a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a scene under a cloak with a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a scene under a cloak with a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a scene under a cloak with a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a scene under a cloak with a bit of a mid-snooze assassination attempt, but Ariel wakes him up.Meanwhile Caliban's picking up sticks and there's a scene under a cloak with a scene under a the end of it, Caliban thinksStephano is a god!These crazy guys attempt to overthrow Prospero.Meanwhile Miranda proposes marriage to Ferdinand!Prospero's all UUUHH. Cute. But not for long.It's wizard revenge time!He lures Antonio and Alonso to a magical banquetand Ariel changes herself into a big nasty bird lady.Meanwhile, Miranda and Ferdinand get married and Prospero invites Greek Gods along! Clever. Just think of Presents! Meanwhile ... what is this!?! Meanwhile Island? Meanwhile Island? Meanwhile Island? Meanwhile Caliban's crazies are all off to kill Prospero, so Ariel distracts them with magical clothes and then chases them awaywith spirit dogs. And at last Prospero reveals himself and gives his broAntonio and King Alonso a big telling off, then forgives them. He releases Ariel from serving him, frees Caliban. And everybody gets back in the mended ship. He says goodbye to his magical staff and books. Hang on, is that...? Nah. Can't be. Next Year! Ibiza! A ship is caught in a tempest and begins to sink. Prospero tells Miranda that he caused the storm. 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's plot. Prospero forgives the passengers for their former betrayals.Back to topThis play starts dramatically with a ship being tossed around by waves in a violent storm. The stage directions tell us that 'thunder and lightning' are heard. On board the ship is King Alonso of Naples who is heading home from his daughter's wedding in Tunis. He is accompanied by his son Ferdinand, and his friends Sebastian Antonio and Gonzalo. As the storm worsens, the boatswainA supervisor on a ship, pronounced 'bo'sun'. asks the noblemen to stay in their cabins out of harm's way so the crew can keep the boat safe. Antonio and Sebastian curse the Sorry, something went wrongCheck your connection, refresh the page and try again., who suggests they do some work or be quiet. The opening scene ends with cries of panic and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm. She worries for the 'poor souls' onboard. Prospero, watch the storm and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm and prayer as the boat begins to sink. Back to topOn a nearby island Miranda and her father, P past.Twelve years earlier Prospero was the Duke of Milan and Miranda was a princess. However, they were betrayed by his brother, Antonio, and the King of a boat. The two washed up on the island and since then, Prospero and his daughter away on a 'rotten carcass' of a boat. controls Ariel, a sprite, and Caliban, his servant and son of the witch Sycorax. He says it is fortunate that his enemies are now stranded on the island following the shipwreck. Did you know? When this play was written, it was common for people to believe in magic and witchcraft. Prospero would have seemed like a very powerful and even frightening figure to an audience then. Back to topAfter telling his story, Prospero puts Miranda under a sleeping spell and talks to his servant, Ariel. Ariel explains that he caused the storm, as instructed, and has landed the passengers safely on different parts of the island. He has left the King's son, Ferdinand, by himself. Ariel asks for his freedom in return for all the 'worthy service' he has done for Prospero agrees to set him free after two more days and meanwhile asks Ariel to remain invisible to everyone. Prospero orders his 'poisonous slave' Caliban to fetch more firewood. Caliban inhabited the island long before Prospero arrived. Ariel then uses magical music to lure Ferdinand to Prospero. When Miranda first sees him she is convinced he is a spirit and the two fall instantly in love. Back to topAlonso (King of Naples), Sebastian (his brother), Antonio (Prospero's brother) and Gonzalo (a kind nobleman) are stranded on another part of the island. Alonso is upset because he believes his son is dead. Ariel, invisible to the other characters, plays 'solemn music' which sends everyone to sleep apart from Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio. Alonso starts to feel 'wondrous heavy' and the others promise to guard him while he takes a rest. Antonio suggests that this is an opportunity for Sebastian to become king. With Ferdinand apparently dead, and the King's daughter married in Tunis, Sebastian would be next in line to rule Naples. They draw their swords are drawn because they heard a noise like a 'whole herd of lions'. Back to topElsewhere on the island, Caliban is collecting wood and cursing Prospero as he does so. When Trinculo, the ship's jester appears, Caliban hides under the 'monster' under the cloak is an islander. When the storm starts again he decides to take shelter under Caliban's cloak. Stephan, the ship's butler, arrives, drinking and singing. He thinks the cloak hides a monster with 'four legs' and feeds wine first into Caliban's mouth and then Trinculo's. Trinculo recognises Stephano and the two dance about joyfully. Caliban praises Stephano and the two dance about joyfully. promises to serve them. Ironically he then sings about his freedom from Prospero. Meanwhile, Ferdinand is collecting logs and working hard to propose marriage in Shakespeare's day. Women were seen as the property of their fathers and husbands, so Miranda's proposal could be interpreted as brave, inappropriate or funny, depending on the performance. Back to topTrinculo, Caliban and Stephano. Ariel plays tricks by impersonating their voices and causes the three to argue. Caliban persuades Stephano that he should kill Prospero and become lord of the island. They plot to approach Prospero during his afternoon nap and 'brain him' after taking his books. Caliban says that Stephano could take Prospero during his afternoon nap and become lord of the island. They plot to approach Prospero during his afternoon nap and 'brain him' after taking his books. that he will tell his master. He plays mysterious music which the three drunken plotters follow. Back to topAs Alonso and his party continue to search for Ferdinand, Prospero prepares an imaginary banquet for them. Ariel appears as a harpyA monster from Greek mythology with a woman's head and claws, wings and tail. They represent storm winds and punishment. and accuses Alonso, Antonio and Sebastian of being 'three men of sin'. They are terrified by the vision and run away. Prospero asks Ariel to bring all the spirits together and prepare a celebration for the couple. A series of nymphs appear to Miranda and Ferdinand. Ariel makes beautiful clothes appear to distract Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo. As they marvel at the clothes, a 'noise of hunters' is heard and his followers are all deeply disturbed by the earlier magical vision and are suffering. Prospero sends Ariel to fetch them. Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio cannot believe that Prospero is alive. Prospero is alive. Prospero as Duke of Milan. Antonio says nothing. Alonso is delighted when Prospero reveals that his son, Ferdinand, is alive and engaged to Miranda. Ariel disappears to magically repair the ship and fetch the crew. Ariel then brings in Caliban and with a final request for 'calm seas' and kind winds, he sets Ariel free. In his closing speech Prospero says he is finished with magic and asks the audience for his own forgiveness and freedom.Did you know? The Tempest is one of the final plays that Shakespeare wrote. This has led some readers to interpret Prospero's monologueA speech by a single person, speaking alone, often revealing something about their past or personality. as a sort of

retirement speech from Shakespeare himself. They see the magic as representing Shakespeare's skill of creating worlds for the audience to believe in and enjoy. Back to top