The Tempest
By William Shakespeare

Study Guide

Instructions:
Please respond to the following questions to show your understanding of the plot and characters in the play. You may use your textbook note pages for assistance.

1. Did the storm described in the first scene suggest the title of the play?
2. Is Shakespeare's description of this storm technically accurate?
3. Why does Shakespeare begin this play with the description of a storm?
4. What further dramatic function does the storm now have?
5. What does Prospero's mantle symbolize?
6. Why does he lay his mantle aside when he begins to relate to Miranda the circumstances of their previous lives?
7. What does Prospero say regarding his love of study and of books?
8. What is the dramatic purpose of the quarrel between Prospero and Ariel?
9. Who is Sycorax?
10. What has Shakespeare accomplished in Act I of The Tempest?
11. Who is Claribel? What dramatic purpose is attained by the references to Claribel?
12. In what way does Caliban manifest his mental and moral degradation?
13. Why was Caliban so much shrewder than Stephano and Trinculo?
14. Why does Shakespeare introduce here the game of chess?
15. Of what is Prospero the personification?
16. What is the nature and function of Ariel? Why is he invisible to everyone in the play except Prospero?
17. In The Tempest and A Midsummer Night's Dream Shakespeare portrays man in connection with the supernatural. What is the principal difference between the plays so far as they relate to this subject?
18. What does Prospero say about the conspiracy against his life? What effect does the recollection of the conspiracy have upon Prospero?
Sample Character Overview

WHO'S WHO

THE COURT

FERDINAND
Prince of Naples
Ethan Nguyen

SEBASTIAN
Andy Talen

ALONSO
King of Naples
Matthew Dunivan

ADRIAN
A Lord
Kristie Larson

BOATSWAIN
Ship Crew Member
Phillip Shinn

Fathers

Plot to
overthrow

Helped

Wants to take revenge on

Usurp power from

Sisters

Friends

GONZALO
Councilor to the King
Ryan Nicolls

TRINCULO
The King’s Jester
Sophie Amoss

STEPHANO
The King’s Butler
Adam Petchel

Only daughter of

MIRANDA
Sheyenne
Javonne Brown

PROSPERA
Former Duke of Milan
Ito Aghaye

Commands

Slave to

Senario

Plots to overthrow

OTHER SPIRITS OF THE ISLAND

Marianna Caldwell
Daniela Mastropietro
Ariel Pulis
Jeena Yi

ARIEL
A spirit
Kevin Tobias

CALIBAN
A monstrous creature
Greg Nussen

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