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The Tempest By William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare (1564 -1616) is an English poet, playwright and actor. He is regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's greatest dramatist of all time. He is often called 'England's National Poet' and 'Bard of Avon. His works consist of approximately 37 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems.

The Tempest Main characters

Prospero – An old man Rightful Duke of Milan Miranda's father Antonio's brother

Miranda – Beautiful young lady Prospero's daughter

Sycorax – A witch Caliban's mother

Ariel – Chief of gentle spirits

Caliban – Ugly monster Son of Sycorax

King of Naples – Powerful prince Prospero's enemy Father of Ferdinand

Ferdinand – Prince of Naples

Gonzalo – Kind lord of Prospero's court

The Tempest Key Points

- ◆ Prospero and his daughter Miranda came to an island and lived in a cave.
- ◆ A witch, Sycorax, imprisoned many good spirits in the bodies of large trees.
- ◆ Prospero released these gentle spirits using his magical powers.
- ◆ Ariel was the chief of these gentle spirits. ‘



- ◆ Prospero raised a violent storm in die sea to wreck the ship of his enemies.
- ◆ He ordered Ariel to torment the inmates of the ship.
- ◆ Ariel was instructed to bring Ferdinand, the prince of Naples to his cave.
- ◆ Ferdinand was the second human whom Miranda had seen on the island, after her father.
- ◆ Prospero wanted to test Ferdinand and gave a severe task to perform.
- ◆ Miranda was attracted by Ferdinand and had more concern towards him.
- ◆ The King of Naples and Antonio, repented the injustice they had done to Prospero.
- ◆ Prospero forgave them and restored his dukedom, Milan.

The Tempest Summary

The play opens with a storm raised by Prospero. Earlier he was the rightful Duke of Milan. He had been set adrift in a boat with his three-year-old daughter, Miranda, by his usurping brother, Antonio. Prospero was more interested in his books and his magic than in the pragmatics of ruling Milan. This caused him to be overthrown by his brother. Arriving at an island, Prospero proceeded to make good use of his magic by freeing the spirit Ariel from the torment of imprisonment by a witch called Sycorax. Prospero found no living person on the island other than Sycorax's son, an ugly monster, Caliban. Prospero employed Caliban, as a slave, to fetch wood and do the most laborious works. As the play begins, Prospero creates a tempest in order to dash a fine large ship, in which the King of Naples, his son Ferdinand, and Prospero's brother, Antonio were travelling. He creates this tempest with the help of Ariel. He asks Ariel to bring Ferdinand to his cave. Before the arrival of Ferdinand, he tells his daughter of the misdeeds of his brother Antonio and the King of Naples. He tells the reason for creating the violent storm. He has no intentions of hurting them. But he wants them to realize their mistake and repent. When Ferdinand comes to his cave, he gets attracted to Miranda. They fall in love with each other. Prospero tests Ferdinand's constancy by making him to perform severe tasks. Finally, Ariel makes Prospero's enemies to realize their mistake. They repent for it. Prospero forgives them and restores his dukedom Milan.

The Tempest GLOSSARY

afflict – trouble

altered – changed

apparel – dress; clothes on

charge – duty

compelling – forcing

constancy – loyalty

deprive (v) – to take something important or necessary away from someone

dreadful (adj.) – extremely bad or unpleasant



duke (n) – a man of very high social rank in some European countries; a king

enchanted – charmed

famished (adj.) – extremely hungry

fatigue (n) – extreme tiredness

lamenting – shedding tears

mast – a tall upright post on a ship or boat

perish – die

repent (v) – to be very sorry for something bad you have done.

resistance (n) – The act of fighting against something

resolved – determined to do something

stupefied – stunned

tackle – try to solve

tormenting (v) – making someone suffer or worry a lot

vexation (n) – worry or anger

voracious (adj.) – very eager for something

withered – dried

A. Choose the correct answer.

1. was the chief of all spirits.

(a) Sycorax

(b) Caliban

(c) Ariel

(d) Prospero

Answer:

(c) Ariel

2. raised a dreadful storm.

(a) Ariel

(b) Prospero

(c) Miranda



(d) Sycorax

Answer:

(b) Prospero

3. Miranda was brought to the island years ago.

(a) fourteen

(b) ten

(c) twelve

(d) five

Answer:

(c) twelve

4. Prospero ordered Ariel to bring to his place.

(a) Gonzalo

(b) Ferdinand

(c) King of Naples

(d) Antonio

Answer:

(b) Ferdinand

5. had provided Prospero formerly with books and provisions.

(a) Antonio

(b) Ferdinand

(c) Gonzalo

(d) Antonio

Answer:

(c) Gonzalo

6. The second human being that Miranda saw on the island was

(a) Ariel

(b) Prospero

(c) Ferdinand



(d) Gonzalo

Answer:

(c) Ferdinand

B. Identify the character or speaker.

1. He imprisoned the spirits in the bodies of large trees.

Sycorax

2. He was the chief of all spirits.

Ariel

3. It seems to me like the recollection of a dream.

Miranda

4. I was Duke of Milan, and you were a princess.

Prospero

5. What a trouble must I have been to you then!

Miranda

6. Now pray tell me, sir, your reason for raising this sea-storm?

Miranda

7. I will soon move you.

Ariel

8. I will tie your neck and feet together.

Prospero

9. I must finish my task before I take my rest.

Answer:

Ferdinand

10. He repented and implored his brother's forgiveness.

Antonio

E. Rearrange the following sentences in coherent order.

1. He ordered Ariel to torment the inmates of the ship.

2. Miranda was attracted by Ferdinand and had more concern towards him.



3. Prospero and Miranda came to an island and lived in a cave.
4. Prospero forgave them and restored his dukedom, Milan.
5. He raised a violent storm in the sea to wreck the ship of his enemies.
6. Prospero wanted to test Ferdinand and gave a severe task to perform.

Using his powers, Prospero released the good spirits from large bodies of trees.

8. The King of Naples, and Antonio the false brother, repented the injustice they had done to Prospero.
9. Ariel was instructed to bring Ferdinand, the prince of Naples to his cave.
10. Ferdinand was the second human whom Miranda had seen after her father.

Answer:

3, 7, 5, 1, 9, 10, 2, 6, 8, 4

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