

ARTS AND COMMERCE COLLEGE, ASHTA

Class: B.A. III

Subject: Understanding Drama

A Presentation on

'The Tempest', a Drama by Shakespeare

A Presentation by

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The Tempest

By William Shakespeare



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William Shakespeare's

The Tempest

- Generally regarded as Shakespeare's last play: 1611
- Performed for King James I and at the marriage festivities of his daughter Elizabeth
- Source: William Strachey's account of the shipwreck of the *Sea Venture* in 1609



Paul Falconer Poole. *A Scene from the Tempest*, 1856.

Themes

- Rulers and subjects
 - Right relationship
 - Responsibilities
 - Master/Servant
- Revenge or mercy
 - Sibling rivalry
- Commentary on European exploration of new lands
 - Utopianism
 - Colonialism
 - Imperialism
- “The Other”
 - Nature of indigenous peoples
- The role of the artist
 - Autobiographical?



Prospero by Lisa Iris

Prospero
usurper

Antonio
King of Naples

Miranda

Alonso

Sebastian Duke of Milan

Ferdinand

Sycorax

Caliban

Ariel
Iris
Ceres
Juno
Nymphs

Gonzalo, Counselor
Trinculo, Jester
Stephano, Butler
Adrian, Francisco
Shipmaster, Boatswain, etc.

The Tempest

Main Menu

Click on each category to view detailed explanation:

1. Characters



5. Climax



2. Dramatic Structure



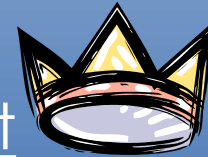
6. Falling Action



3. Exposition



7. Denouement



4. Rising Action



8. Themes



[Click Here To Begin Your Quiz!](#)



Characters

- **Prospero:** The protagonist, the overthrown Duke of Milan who is now a sorcerer on a deserted island.
- **Miranda:** Daughter of Prospero.
- **Ariel:** A mischievous spirit who does Prospero's bidding and is visible only to him.
- **Alonso:** King of Naples.
- **Sebastian:** Alonso's brother, who is attempting to kill his brother and nephew to steal the throne.
- **Antonio:** Prospero's brother, new Duke of Milan, who sent Prospero to the island.
- **Ferdinand:** Alonso's son, next in line for the throne.



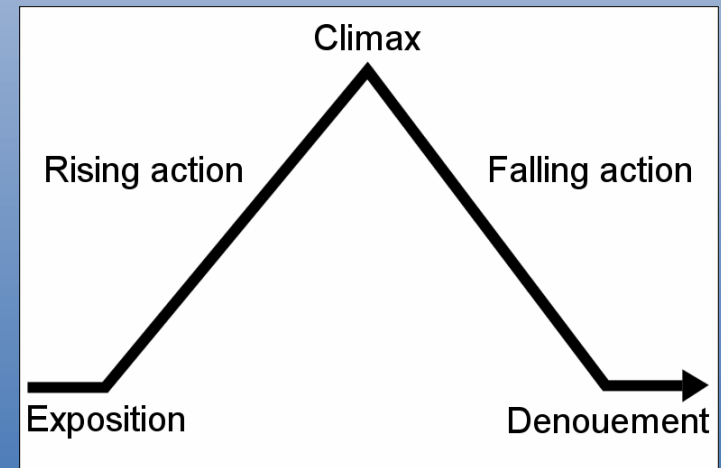
The Tempest: Concepts in Acts I and II

In *The Tempest*, Shakespeare seems to have anticipated the race, class and gender politics of Colonialism:

- Prospero is the Colonial Master, deposed from his European seat, and now imposing his rule on Caliban's island
- Ariel is the "good native," who happily does the bidding of the master
- Caliban is the "bad native" who must be controlled and enslaved
- Miranda is the "prize" the ideal of feminine purity that must be protected from the savages
- Ferdinand is the "heir" to Europe's wealth and power, though he hasn't done anything to deserve his good fortune
- Stephano and Trinculo represent the lower-class Europeans who emulate the upper class in seeking to take advantage of the natives
- Antonio, Adrian and Sebastian are European courtiers who will take advantage of any opportunity to advance their positions; Antonio (brother of Prospero and usurping Duke of Milan) plots with Sebastian to overthrow his brother, Alonso (King of Naples)

Dramatic Structure

- **Exposition:** The beginning of the story which gives information that is necessary for the reader's full understanding.
- **Rising Action:** Any action or actions that lead up to the climax of the story.
- **Climax:** The moment of pure conflict in the story, something huge is changing or happening to the Protagonist.
- **Falling Action:** All conflict is being settled, things are slowly falling back into place.
- **Denouement:** The story is finished, and the audience is usually left with a sense of finality.



Exposition

- Prospero, the rightful Duke of Milan has just been overthrown and banished to an abandoned island by his own brother, Antonio, who has allied himself with Milan's enemy, Naples.



Rising Action

- Prospero uses his sorcery and his spirit, Ariel, to create a storm which wrecks the ship which carries Antonio (his brother), Alonso (King of Naples), Sebastian (Alonso's brother), and Ferdinand (Alonso's son), causing them to all be cast on to the island.



Climax

- Miranda (Prospero's daughter) and Ferdinand (Alonso's son) fall in love, Prospero creates a series of magical interventions which cause Alonso to regret his past actions.



Falling Action

- Antonio and Sebastian's plan to overthrow Alonso is revealed.



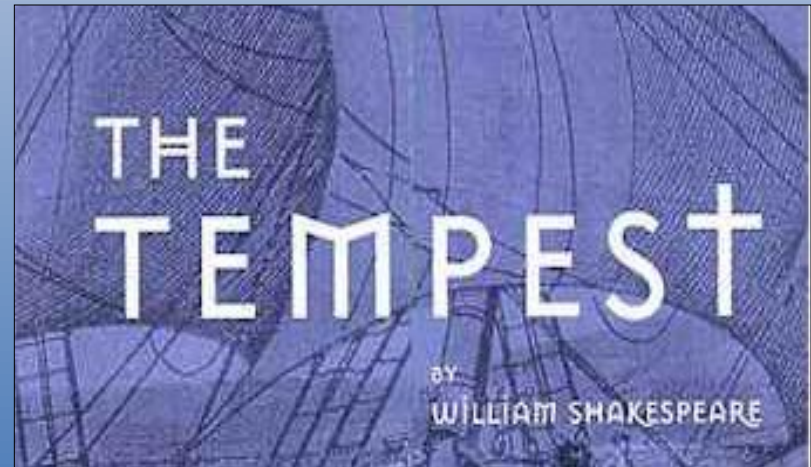
Denouement

- Prospero's dukedom is restored, Antonio and Sebastian are forgiven, and the betrothal between Miranda and Ferdinand ensures peace between Milan and Naples.



Themes

- **Revenge:** Throughout the entire play, Prospero puts all of his energy into getting revenge on his brother.
- **Jealousy:** Jealousy plays a huge role in the story. There is jealousy between Prospero and Antonio and Alonso and Sebastian.
- **Forgiveness:** Forgiveness is the theme most commonly associated with Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. In the end of the play, everyone is forgiven, and all is well.



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Question 1: On the Dramatic Structure diagram, where does the Denouement fall?

- A. Before the Exposition
- B. After the Rising Action
- C. Before the Climax
- D. After the Falling Action

Question 2: What is the name of Prospero's daughter?

A. Ariel

B. Miranda

C. Juliet

D. Beatrice

Question 3: Why did Prospero send out the storm to wreck the ship and bring its habitants onto his island?

A. To get revenge on his brother

B. He is a cruel old man

C. It was an accident

D. None of the above

Question 4: In the end, who does Miranda fall in love with?

A. Alonso

B. Antonio

C. Ferdinand

D. Romeo

Question 5: Which theme can most easily be tied to the play?

A. Revenge

B. Jealousy

C. Forgiveness

D. All of the above