

English Knowledge Organiser Y7 The Tempest Autumn 2

Key term	Definition
Scene	Each act is broken down into scenes. Each scene is a piece of action which takes place in a single place without a break in time
Prose and blank verse	Prose is defined as "ordinary language". It is the language that people speak in. Shakespeare's poorer characters often speak like this. Blank verse is a type of poetry. Shakespeare's characters of higher status usually speak like this.
Satire	A technique employed by Shakespeare to critique societal norms, particularly through the character of Bottom.
Iambic pentameter	A verse rhythm often used in Shakespeare's writing. It has 10 syllables per line. Syllables alternate between unstressed and stressed beats, creating this pattern: "de/DUM de/DUM de/DUM de/DUM de/DUM."
Soliloquy	Shakespeare's plays are full of soliloquies. A soliloquy is a speech a character gives which we as the audience can hear it, but none of the characters in the play can.
Rhyming couplets	Two lines which rhyme, often (but not only) used at the end of a scene. E.g. "This precious book of love, this unbound lover, To beautify him only lacks a cover." - Romeo and Juliet
Acts	An act is a part of a play which gives it structure through usual story elements such as rising action, climax and resolution. Shakespeare plays have five acts
Beat and meter	The beat, or the rhythm, refers to the overall tempo, or pace, at which the blank verse unfolds, while meter refers to the patterns of stressed and unstressed syllables.
Plot	The plot is a series of events inside a story.

The Tempest

The Tempest is a story about a magical storm, a mysterious island, and a journey of forgiveness.

Once upon a time, there was a wise magician named **Prospero** who lived on an island with his daughter, **Miranda**. Prospero had been the Duke of Milan, but his brother, **Antonio**, betrayed him and took his place. With the help of his magic, Prospero created a huge storm, called a tempest, to bring his brother and other enemies to the island. On the island, there were magical creatures like **Ariel**, a helpful spirit, and **Caliban**, a grumpy monster. Prospero used his magic to control them and make them help him.

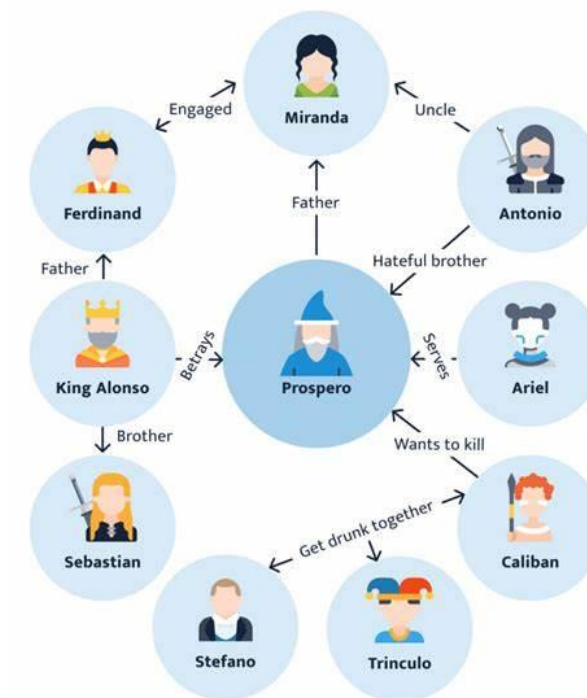
Key Themes

- 1. Forgiveness:** Prospero forgives his brother Antonio for being mean to him.
- 2. Magic:** Prospero uses his magic to create the storm and control the island. Ariel, a magical spirit, helps him with his spells.
- 3. Loyalty:** The characters learn about being good friends and staying loyal to each other. For example, Ariel is very loyal to Prospero.
- 4. Adventure:** The play is full of exciting adventures as the shipwrecked people explore the island and face different challenges.
- 5. Nature:** The island is a wild and beautiful place, and the characters interact with nature in many ways.

Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564, in a town called Stratford-upon-Avon in England. William went to a local school where he learned a lot about reading, writing, and Latin. When he was young, William probably enjoyed watching plays performed by traveling actors who visited his town. This might have made him interested in writing and acting. Later, William moved to London, where he became a famous writer and actor. He wrote many plays and poems that people still love today.

The Tempest: Character map



Wider Reading:



Top Tips for decoding Shakespeare's language

- 1. Learn Old Words:** Know words like "thee" (you) and "thou" (you).
- 2. Read Out Loud:** It helps you hear the rhythm and feelings.
- 3. Use Notes:** Look for books with explanations.
- 4. Break It Down:** Split long sentences into smaller parts.
- 5. Look Around:** Use other words to figure out tricky ones.
- 6. Understand Comparisons:** Find out what he's comparing.
- 7. Be Patient:** Keep trying, it gets easier.
- 8. Use Modern Help:** Read a modern version if needed.
- 9. Watch the Play:** Seeing it can help understand the story.
- 10. Talk About It:** Discuss with friends or family.