

Threshold Concept- Year 7- The Tempest:

TC1 - Understanding texts

TC2 - Demonstrate an appreciation of the writer's craft through analysis and critically evaluative comments.

A plot and character summary of 'The Tempest:' Full translation (if on MS Teams) = [The Tempest Modern](#)

The sinking ship
A ship is sinking in a wild storm. King Alonso and his son Ferdinand, accompanied by Antonio, Gonzalo, and Sebastian, are on board.

Prospero's story
He was the Duke of Milan, and Miranda was a princess. King Alonso tried to kill them, but they survived. Prospero learned magic.

The plot to kill Alonso
The other passengers are on another part of the island. Thinking that Ferdinand is dead, Sebastian and Antonio plot to kill Alonso.

Caliban gets drunk
Trinculo & Stephano from Alonso's ship meet Caliban, Prospero's slave. They get drunk together and plot to kill Prospero. Ariel overhears.

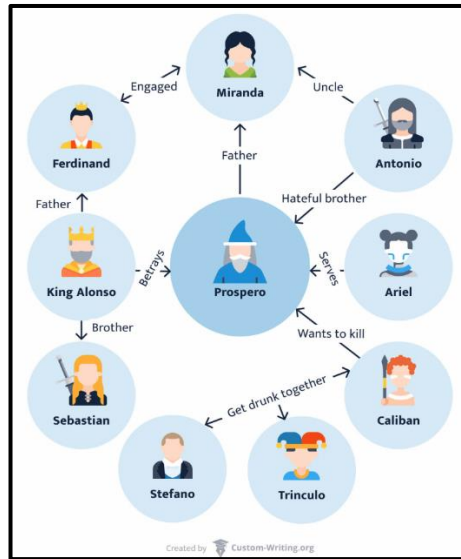
The celebration
Prospero agrees to the marriage of Ferdinand and Miranda. All the spirits come together to celebrate the wedding.

Prospero & Miranda
On a nearby island Miranda and her father, Prospero, watch the storm. Prospero has caused the tempest. He tells Miranda their story.

Ferdinand meets Miranda
Ariel, a spirit of the air, lands the passengers of the sunk ship on Prospero's island. Ferdinand meets Prospero and falls in love with her.

The proposal
Ferdinand dreams of marrying Miranda. He doesn't know yet that she loves him. Miranda proposes to Ferdinand and he accepts.

Ariel becomes a monster
Prospero uses magic to turn Ariel into a monster for a while. Ariel terrifies Alonso, Antonio, and Sebastian. They run away in fear.



Using this information can you:

- Recount what happens from start to finish in the novella?
- Explain who the primary characters are, and what makes them unique?

You should use this information to get the base knowledge needed for William Shakespeare's play.

E.g. Ferdinand is King Alonso's son who becomes engaged to Miranda. He is proposed to by her nearer the end of the play.

The character of Miranda is clearly in love with Ferdinand. **"I am your wife if you will marry me. If not, I'll die your maid."** This juxtaposition reflects Miranda's devotion to Ferdinand, whether he chooses her to marry or keep as a servant. The pronoun "your" is repeated which shows she feels owned by Ferdinand already. A modern audience would be worried that Miranda is putting herself in a vulnerable position to be exploited by Ferdinand here, while an original audience would highly approve of Miranda's commitment to a male figure in a sexist society

Key quote written down
Technique identified.
What it shows
Audience reaction(s).

In order to be successful, **you must know a range of different moments** from the whole story. For example, other moments where Miranda is important include:

- Her making fun of her dad "Your tale, sir, would cure deafness."
- Caliban's inappropriate language about her, "seek'st to violate... the honour of my child."
- Miranda meets new people for the first time in her life: "O brave new world!"



Developing this further- discussing audience reaction.

A really effective way to showcase your understanding of the text is by comparing how an original audience might react vs. how a modern audience might react (see the blue part of the WAGOLL above). This is how we do this:



ORIGINAL AUDIENCE MIGHT THINK

Prospero is right to treat Caliban the way he does, as Shakespeare's audience believed non-white people were more aggressive, less intelligent and sneakier (racism was far more common).

MODERN AUDIENCE MIGHT THINK

Caliban should be treated more fairly. He shows moments of intelligence and kindness that is completely ignored by other characters (we are an anti-racist society).



Try to consider, as you read the play, your own reactions to characters/ events. Then compare this to how an audience in the 1600s (with very different views to us) would react.