

## GRADE 12 PORTIONS

ACT 3, Sc 3 to ACT 5

TEMPEST ACT 3, Sc 3 to Act 5

1. Why does Shakespeare begin this play with the description of a storm?

**Ans-**In ancient times, and in Shakespeare's day as well, the elements were supposed to be in very close sympathy with human joy and sorrow. It was believed that Nature, both animate and inanimate, was profoundly disturbed by impending disaster. The storm with which this play opens is intended to recall the foul play by which Prospero was robbed of his dukedom, and he and Miranda were heaved hence out of Milan, and to what was hoped by his enemies would be a cruel death. It is intended, also, to be a punishment upon the doers of that wicked deed.

2. What further dramatic function does the storm now have?

**Ans-**It gives Prospero an opportunity to relate to Miranda all the circumstances which have caused her and himself to be in this island. These circumstances are the causes of the action of this drama. It is necessary the spectators of the drama should be thoroughly informed of them. The dramatic purpose of this recital of them is to convey to the spectators that necessary information.

3. What does Prospero's mantle symbolize?

**Ans:** His power as a magician. His art by means of which he controls nature and spirits.

4. Why does he lay his mantle aside when he begins to relate to Miranda the circumstances of their previous lives?

**Answer:** Because he temporarily ceases to exercise his function as the Enchanter, the Magician, which is his function in this drama, and assumes his other character - viz., that of her Father, the Duke of Milan.

5. What is the dramatic purpose of the quarrel between Prospero and Ariel?

**Answer:** **I.** To give Prospero an opportunity, when chiding Ariel, to inform the spectators of the drama of Ariel's history, which information it is absolutely necessary they should have in order to appreciate Ariel's part in the action of the drama. **II.** To give an opportunity for the revelation of the characters of Prospero and Ariel.

6. Who is Sycorax?

**Answer:** The witch Sycorax, whom Prospero refers to as "blue-eyed hag" is the mother of Caliban. She was born and banished from Argier (the older form of Algiers). She is mentioned in 1.2 and 5.1. Ariel was her servant but punished him for disobedience (Ariel was "too delicate/To act her earthy and abhorr'd commands"), trapping him in a cloven pine for a dozen years, during which time she died.

Sycorax's use of magic for evil purposes is in sharp contrast to Prospero's use of magic for good.

7. What has Shakespeare accomplished in Act I of *The Tempest*?

**Answer:** He has introduced every important character in the drama, and given all necessary information about them. **II.** He has described in detail all the causes of the action of this drama. **III.** He has foreshadowed that action: **a.** Prospero's retribution (cf. I. 2. 177-184); **b.** The love affair of Ferdinand and Miranda

8. What has Shakespeare accomplished in Act I of *The Tempest*?

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9. Who is Claribel? What dramatic purpose is attained by the references to Claribel?

**Answer:** Claribel is the daughter of the King of Naples. Her marriage was the indirect cause of the disasters which have happened to Alonso and his friends . To give the spectators this information, which is so necessary to an intelligent appreciation of the plot, is the reason of this reference to her.

10. In what way does Caliban manifest his mental and moral degradation?

**Answer:** By ingratitude toward Prospero. **II.** By his choice of the degraded and drunken Stephano as master, in preference to Prospero. His mind sympathizes with his ugly body.

11. Why was Caliban so much shrewder than Stephano and Trinculo?

**Answer:** His knowledge of Prospero was much more accurate; his fear of him much greater.

12. Why does Shakespeare introduce here the game of chess?

**Answer:** At the time this play was written chess was very popular in Naples, of which place Ferdinand was a prince. With this fact Shakespeare was doubtless familiar. It probably suggested to him the use of the game in this play.

13. Of what is he the personification?

**Answer:** Primarily, of Wisdom. Secondly, of the Power that can execute justice; rewarding the Right, punishing and circumventing the Wrong; and in so doing can use as his ministers supernatural beings and Nature.

14. What is the nature and function of Ariel? Why is he invisible to every one in the play except Prospero?

**Answer:** Fire. He is moody. Prospero calls him malignant thing. His function in the drama is to represent the intellectual, the spiritual, and to execute Prospero's commands. He is the link between earth and the higher and better world.

He is invisible because he is the executant of Prospero's orders. If he were visible, it might interfere with that work.

#### 16. Why was Prospero banished?

Years before the action of *The Tempest* begins, two men conspired to assassinate Prospero, who was then the Duke of Milan. These two men were Prospero's brother, Antonio, and the King of Naples, Alonso. The purpose of these men's conspiracy was to remove Prospero from power and install Antonio in his place. Antonio succeeded in taking over the dukedom but the assassination plot failed because Gonzalo alerted Prospero to the plot and helped him escape from Milan on a rotting boat. As Prospero explains to Miranda in Act I, scene ii, they arrived on the island "By providence divine." Although Prospero is clearly the victim of a foul plot against his life, he was not entirely blameless in the events that occurred. By his own admission, Prospero's increasing obsession with the study of magic had begun to take more and more of his time. This obsession forced him to neglect his duties as duke and eventually hand the government over to Antonio. Though Prospero's delinquency does not justify Antonio's betrayal, it certainly enabled it.

#### 17. Who is Ariel and why does he work for Prospero?

Ariel is a spirit who uses magic to help Prospero carry out his plans. Given Ariel's evident power, it may seem odd that he would be willing to serve Prospero at all. So why does he do the magician's bidding? The main reason is that Ariel owes what freedom he has to Prospero. Prior to Prospero's arrival on the island, Ariel served Caliban's mother, Sycorax. As Prospero reminds him in Act I, scene ii, Ariel fell out of favor with Sycorax, and she imprisoned him in a "cloven pine." Ariel remained stuck in the tree for twelve years, during which time Sycorax died, abandoning Ariel to an eternity of pain. When Prospero arrived on the island, he found Ariel in torment: "Thy groans," he explains, "Did make wolves howl and penetrate the breasts / Of ever angry bears" (I.ii.). Prospero freed Ariel from this prison, and he struck a deal in which Ariel would serve him faithfully for one year, after which he would be released from all service and return to freedom.

### **18. Why does Caliban hate Prospero and Miranda?**

Caliban sees Prospero and Miranda as imperialists who took control of an island that he felt belonged to him. In a way, Caliban ironically mirrors Prospero, who was also violently unseated from power. However, whereas Prospero ended up free but in exile, Caliban ended up enslaved in his own home. Caliban resents the sudden and radical shift in his social position, going from the free ruler of the island to the servant of a tyrannical master. In addition to despising Prospero for enslaving him and divesting him of all power, Caliban also resents Miranda for the education she has given him. Miranda describes her efforts as selfless and guided by pity. However, Miranda's educational program also intends to civilize Caliban, a "savage" who "wouldst gabble like / A thing most brutish" (I.ii.). Caliban sees Miranda's apparently selfless act as an extension of her father's imperialism. He also insists that the only good thing about being forced to learn her language is that he can now fully express his hatred: "You taught me language, and my profit on 't / Is I know how to curse".