

While reading William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', I realized how interesting and important Prospero's character was. He spent 15 years of his life in the wait of revenging the people who did wrong with but in the end he forgives everyone and let go of his revenge. He is one of the most unique character of Shakespeare as he has the feelings of a normal human being but also has magical powers.

The more I read about him in the play, the more interested I was to analyse his character.

Therefore, I choose to do a character sketch of Prospero as it helped me to get a more clear idea of Prospero's character.

This question requires us to do a good research on the character we have chosen and write what we perceive the character to be after all the research and assessment.

Prospero is the main protagonist of Shakespeare's play, 'The Tempest'. He is probably the most unusual of Shakespeare's major characters in that, although he is a human being with human qualities, including human faults, he has magical powers. He has the ability to control the weather, the conditions on the island on which he lives, and also the actions and movements of people and the spirits who live on the island.

Fifteen years before the opening of the play he was deposed as Duke of Milan by his brother, Antonio, who gave instructions for his execution, together with his baby daughter, Miranda.

Prospero had taken his eye off the ball by neglecting his duties when he was Duke of Milan, leaving governing to Antonio, and spending his time reading and studying philosophy and science. There was a kind of arrogance in him to believe that could leave it both ways be as a private man indulging his personal interest while at the same time governing a major modern state.

One of the ~~cous~~ counsellors, Gonzalo, defied the order and put them in a little boat and set it adrift. He stocked the boat with Prospero's beloved books. The boat was washed up on a remote island and now, fifteen years later, the action begins with Prospero and the teenage Miranda standing on a cliff watching a ship being wrecked in a storm that Prospero had created to effect that. In the past fifteen years, with uninterrupted study, he has mastered the art of magic and has the ability to create any weather conditions he likes.

The ship is bringing Alonso, King of Naples, and his guests back from his daughter's wedding in Algiers. It seems that everyone on board is drowned but the royal party and some servants have been thrown up on the island, including Alonso, his brother Sebastian, Prospero's brother Antonio, the old councillors Gonzalo, a butler and the King's Jester.

Alonso's teenage son, Ferdinand, has been separated from the group and has ~~landed~~ landed on another part of the island. He believes that everyone else was drowned.

Prospero has used magic to bring them to the island with the intention of making them see the error of their ways. We see that beneath his severe and autocratic behaviour he has a forgiving heart.

Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio are politicians in the world's sophisticated states and are infected with corruption. They are now on a our island - a rural, unsophisticated place from which they have no means of escape - where they can be reflected and renewed because there are none of the structures of European political system on their island.

Moreover, there are two very young people in the forefront of the action - Ferdinand, too young to have been affected by the staleness and corruption of political life, and the completely innocent Miranda who has never seen another human being apart from her father, "Oh brave new world that has dressed in the clothes of European aristocracy. When they emerged from the sea Prospero made their clothes ~~free~~ appear freshly laundered.

Prospero watches the shipwrecked passengers by getting reports from a servant, Ariel, a spirit,

who can flew, make himself invisible and take on different forums. The King is in a kind of daze, heartbroken by what he thinks is the death of his son although possibly never being able to return and Naples, Antonio draws the King's brother, into a plan to overthrow the King, an echo of what he has done to his own brother. So we see European political corruption being imported on to the island as all the corruption and intrigue are pointlessly played out on the island.

Ferdinand and Miranda see each other and anticipated and directed by Prospero, they fall in love. The butler and the jester meet Prospero's slave, Caliban who believes he has a chain on the island, and together they plan to overthrow Prospero.

All these dreams play dramas play themselves out before Prospero's eyes and at the end of the play, he pulls it all together and forgives and pardons everyone. He uses his magic power and plans to return to the Milan to take up his duties as Duke. He will be accompanied by the young couple, a new generation who will bring their freshness to the state old European system.

Signature

A character analysis of Prospero is complicated by his being a magician. So the question is, what are we seeing when we look at Prospero? A complete human being who has to rely on his natural resources or someone above the need for that, who lives his life by practicing magic?

We think of Prospero as a wise, passionate man using his magical powers to eventually bring about forgiveness and redemption, but he has only arrived at that point after overcoming his weakness. Even in the last stages, he is a control freak and a manipulation. On his early life, he was a weak leader, contemptuous of the role he was expected to play and therefore deserving of his political downfall, although that does not excuse him brother's actions.

Prospero can be seen as an authoritarian dictator. He has colonised and takes over Caliban's island, he manipulates his daughter and her young suitor, he is cruel in his treatment of Caliban, and also Ferdinand, and keeps Ariel in a state of servitude by using draconian threats. He causes sufferings to his enemies so that he can bring them together and judge them.

Much of the above is behaviour with good intention but still, the effect is the suffering of others. Magic or no magic, he is quite prepared to hurt others. However, ultimately, he is a human he understands that the ability to forgive and be merciful is what makes us human. He has the capacity to learn the lessons of life and finally becomes secure enough to abandon his magic and live the life of a fully responsible human being without relying on it helps lives.

Signature