

(SAMPLE)

MODIFIED SHAKESPEARE TEXTS

The point of these texts is to give 10-14 year olds a gentler introduction to Shakespeare than tackling a full text for the purposes of a production. Therefore, although the majority of the words are Shakespeare's, some of the more difficult words have been translated into a more recognizable form and sections of original text have been removed to make the play shorter. You will find that these modified versions of the text make the plotline clearer for children and, in no way, diminish Shakespeare's intentions. These plays are intended for production. Classroom study of Shakespeare plays will require the full text.

THE TEMPEST

CAST LIST

PROSPERO, the rightful Duke of Milan

MIRANDA, his daughter

ARIEL, a spirit

CALIBAN, a savage and deformed slave

FERDINAND, son of the King of Naples

ALONSO, King of Naples

GONZALO, an honest old counsellor

ADRIAN, an elderly lord

FRANCISCO, a lord

SEBASTIAN, the King of Naples' brother

ANTONIO, Prospero's brother, the usurping Duke of Milan

TRINCULO, a jester

STEPHANO, a drunken butler

THE MASTER OF THE SHIP

THE BOSUN OF THE SHIP

Spirits (*non-speaking parts*)

15 speaking parts, unlimited number of spirits, other non-speaking could be added, such as more courtiers to the King of Naples or sailors to accompany the Master and Bosun at the end of the play.

THE TEMPEST

A tropical island. There is a storm raging and Prospero, the wizard, is standing in the centre of the stage, and making passes with his hands, as though to conduct the storm. His daughter Miranda comes running in.

MIRANDA

If, by your magic, my dearest father, you have
Put the wild waters in this roar, make them stop!
The sky is so dark that it seems as though it would
Pour down fire and brimstone but that the sea,
Mounting so high, would dash the fire out.
O I have suffered with those that I saw suffer!
A brave vessel, which had, no doubt, some noble creatures in her
Dashed all to pieces on the rocks. Poor souls, they perished!
Had I been any god of power, I would
Have sunk the sea within the earth, to save the
Poor souls on that good ship.

PROSPERO

Be calm, Miranda. No more tears and sorrow.
There is no harm done.
I have done it all because I care for you.
You, my daughter, are ignorant of who you are.
Neither do you know that I am more than Prospero,
Master of this wretched island and simply your father.

MIRANDA

I never thought to ask you more.

PROSPERO

It is time that I should tell you. Come,

Help me take off my magic garment.

(Miranda helps Prospero remove his wizard's cloak. He folds it up and lays it down on the ground.)

PROSPERO

Lie there, my magic art.

Wipe your eyes and have comfort.

The terrible spectacle of the shipwreck, which touched

Your heart and stirred your compassion,

I have safely conjured with my magic,

So that there is no soul, not even a hair on their head,

Which is harmed.

Why I did this, I must now tell you.

MIRANDA

You have often begun to tell me what I am

But stopped and left me to wonder why,

Saying "Stay, not yet."

PROSPERO

The hour has now come.

Listen to me now.

Can you remember a time before we came to this prison?

I do not think you can, for you were but three years old.

MIRANDA

Certainly, sir, I can.

PROSPERO

What? A house, a person?

Tell me of anything that you can remember.

MIRANDA

'Tis far off. And rather like a dream than a memory.

Had I not four or five women that once looked after me?

PROSPERO

You did, and more, Miranda.

But how is it that this lives in your mind?

Perhaps you remember how you came here to this place?

MIRANDA

That I do not.

PROSPERO

Twelve years ago, Miranda, twelve years ago,
Your father was the Duke of Milan and
A prince of power.

MIRANDA

Sir, are you not my father?

PROSPERO

Yes. Your mother was a virtuous woman
And you, my daughter, a princess, no less.

MIRANDA

O, the heavens!

What foul play happened that brought us here then?

Or was it a blessing?

PROSPERO

It was both, my girl.

By foul play, as you say, we were sent away
But blessedly helped to this island.

MIRANDA

Please, tell me more.

PROSPERO

My brother and your uncle, called Antonio,
(that a brother should be so evil!)

Next to you, I loved him more than any and
Gave him the management of my state.

I, Prospero, the Duke, was so taken up with

My secret studies into the arts of magic,

That I left the affairs of government to Antonio.