

**Playstage  
Junior**

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## **THE TEMPEST**



**MODIFIED FROM THE ORIGINAL  
SHAKESPEARE PLAY**

**Written by  
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## **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.**

**Do you understand me?**

**MIRANDA**

**Yes, sir, I do.**

**PROSPERO**

**You false uncle, having perfected the art  
Of how to grant favours and how to deny them,  
Who to promote and who to punish for their ambitions  
Surrounded himself with people who danced  
To his tune. He became the ivy that hid my  
Princely trunk and sucked the life out of it.  
You are not paying attention, Miranda!**

**MIRANDA**

**Oh, I am, father, I am.**

**PROSPERO**

**For me, my library was dukedom enough.  
Bettering my mind was more important than anything else.  
But my false brother, having control of my money  
And my power began to believe that he was indeed the duke.  
He thought me incapable and hatched a plot  
With the King of Naples, where I should be removed  
And my brother should be made full duke in my place.  
A treacherous army was raised and, one midnight,  
My brother opened the gates of Milan and, in the dead of darkness,  
You and I, a crying child, were escorted from the city.**

**MIRANDA**

**I do not remember crying then but this story will make me cry now.**

**PROSPERO**

**Hear a little more, then all shall be explained.**

**MIRANDA**

**Why did they not kill us, there and then?**

**PROSPERO**

**Ah, my dear, they did not dare.**

**The people loved me too much for my brother  
To risk blood on his hands.  
They hurried us aboard a ship,  
Bore us some miles out to sea,  
Where they prepared a rotten carcass of a boat,  
No oars, or sail or mast, and put us in it  
To cry to the sea that roared to us,  
To sigh to the winds.**

**MIRANDA**

**I must have been such a burden to you.**

**PROSPERO**

**No, sweet daughter, it was you that saved me.  
You smiled at me, while I cried  
And gave me the stomach to carry on.**

**MIRANDA**

**How did we come ashore?**

**PROSPERO**

**By Providence divine.  
Some food we had, and some water, that a noble  
Neapolitan soldier called Gonzalo gave us,  
Along with rich garments, linens, stuffs and necessities.  
And, in his gentleness, knowing I loved my books  
He gave me, from my own library, volumes  
That I prize above my dukedom.**

**MIRANDA**

**I should like to meet that man.**

**PROSPERO**

**Hear the last of our sorrow.  
Here in this island we arrived. And here  
Have I raised you and taught you,  
Better than any princess' tutors might have done.**



**MIRANDA**

**And I thank you for it. But now, father,  
Tell me why you have raised this sea storm?**

**PROSPERO**

**An accident most strange, has brought my enemies  
To this shore. And the stars in the sky tell me  
That I must act now, or my fortunes will be forever lost.  
But, no more questions now.**

*(He puts on his magic robe again and makes a few passes at Miranda  
with his hands.)*

**PROSPERO**

**You need to sleep, its is a good dullness,  
Give in to it, you cannot fight it.**

*(Miranda falls asleep. Prospero calls out.)*

**Come, my servant, come! I am ready now!  
Approach, my Ariel, come!**

*(The sprite Ariel enters.)*

**ARIEL**

**All hail great master!  
I come to answer your best pleasure,  
Be it to fly, to swim, to dive into the fire  
To ride on the curled clouds.  
There is no task that you might request that Ariel cannot perform.**

**PROSPERO**

**Have you, spirit, played your part in the tempest that I created?**

**ARIEL**

**In every way, sir.**

**I boarded the king's ship, now on the beak,**

**Now in the waist, the deck and in every cabin.**

**I burnt like fire. Sometimes I would divide**

**And burn in many places – on the topmast,**

**The yards, the bowsprit, I would flame distinctly,**

**Then meet and join.**

**Jove's lightnings followed by dreadful thunderclaps**

**Were joined by the fire and the cracks and the roaring waves.**

**PROSPERO**

**My brave spirit!**

**This must have affected the reason of all those on board the ship.**