

Kids Love Shakespeare's THE TEMPEST - Quick Summary for Kids

This story takes place on a mysterious island in the middle of nowhere. The main inhabitants of the island are Prospero and his daughter Miranda. The other inhabitants of the island are Caliban, Prospero's slave, and many magical spirits. Prospero is a powerful sorcerer who has lived on the island ever since his brother, Antonio, stole his dukedom. Luckily, with the help of his friend Gonzalo, Prospero and Miranda were able to escape alive. They have been shipwrecked on the island for twelve years.

When the story starts, Prospero spots a large ship headed for the island. He causes a great storm, or tempest, to cause the ship to wreck. His daughter, Miranda, worries about the people on board, but Prospero promises her that they will all make it to the island alive. Prospero tells Miranda the story of how they came to the island. He explains that the people on the ship are his enemies, and he is ready to confront them.

As Prospero promised, all of the people on the wrecked ship make it to the island alive. Prospero, with the help of his spirit-servant Ariel, has spread them out on different parts of the island. Prospero tells Ariel that if he helps carry out Prospero's plan, then he'll release Ariel from his charge. The first person to arrive at the home of Prospero and Miranda is Ferdinand, the son of King Alonso. Fernando is the first man Miranda has ever seen besides Caliban and Prospero. She immediately falls in love with him and Fernando falls in love with Miranda. Fernando tells Miranda he'd like to make her his Queen, if they ever make it back to Naples.

In another place on the island, King Alonso tells the others that he is sure his son Ferdinand has drowned. His friend, Gonzolo, tries to comfort him. Prospero's servant, Ariel, quietly puts a sleeping spell on the king. Antonio, Prospero's evil brother, and Sebastian, the king's brother, offer to stand guard while the king rests. But while the group is sleeping, Antonio tries to convince Sebastian to kill King Alonso so Sebastian can become king. Sebastian and Antonio draw their swords just as Ariel releases the spell. King Alonso wakes up and wonders why Sebastian and Antonio's swords are drawn. Sebastian and Antonio say they heard a wild beast.

On another part of the island, Prospero's slave Caliban is collecting wood and cursing his master. Two shipwrecked men find him. Their names are Trinculo and Stephano. Trinculo is a jester and Stephano is a drunken butler. Caliban shares a bottle of wine with Trinculo and Stephano and they make a plan to steal the island from Prospero. Ariel overhears them and warns Prospero.

Ariel then goes back to the king and his men. Ariel uses his magic to present the group of men with delicious food and drink. He then confronts them about their past while making them crazy under a spell.

Meanwhile, Prospero agrees to let Ferdinand and Miranda marry. The spirits present the newlyweds with a beautiful song to celebrate their marriage. After the celebration is over, Prospero and Ariel set a trap for Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo. The three men fall for the trap and are frightened away by Prospero's magical evil dogs.

At last, all the characters are brought together. Prospero finally confronts Alonso, Antonio and Sebastian. Ferdinand is reunited with his father and the marriage of Ferdinand and Miranda is announced. All is forgiven and the party makes plans to return to Naples. Prospero sets Caliban and all the spirits on the island free, and asks the audience to guide him safely home with their applause.