



Rainford High School English Department – Year 8 The Tempest Knowledge Organiser

Shakespeare	Context	The Narrative
<p>William Shakespeare is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers in the English language. He was born on or around 23 April 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, the eldest son of John Shakespeare, a glove-maker, and Mary Arden, the daughter of a wealthy farmer. There are no records of William’s education, but he probably went to King’s New School – a reputable Stratford grammar school.</p> <p>At 18, William married Anne Hathaway, and the couple had three children over the next few years. However, in 1596, Shakespeare’s eleven-year-old son, Hamnet, died.</p> <p>Between about 1590 and 1613, Shakespeare wrote at least 37 plays and a famous collection of sonnets. In the 1590s, Shakespeare joined and became a shareholder of the Lord Chamberlain’s Men who performed before Queen Elizabeth on numerous occasions. When Queen Elizabeth died in 1603, her successor, King James I, announced that the Lord Chamberlain’s Men would now be the King’s Men. Shakespeare died on 23 April 1616 and was buried in Holy Trinity Church.</p>	<p>The age of Exploration - The era known as the Age of Exploration, sometimes called the Age of Discovery, officially began in the early 15th century and lasted through the 17th century. The period is characterized as a time when Europeans began exploring the world by sea in search of new trading routes, wealth, and knowledge.</p> <p>Sea Venture - In 1609, a ship travelling to Virginia – Sea Venture - was caught in a storm. For the next year, people back in London believe that the Sea Venture was shipwrecked. However, in 1610 it was discovered that this ship had survived and eventually reached Virginia. It is argued that this event inspired Shakespeare to create a similar tale of loss and rediscovery.</p> <p>Colonisation – Colonisation is the act of sending people to live in and govern another country. Beginning in the sixteenth century, the British Empire colonised many parts of the world.</p>	<p>Prospero, the usurped Duke of Milan, uses magic to conjure a storm and torment the survivors of a shipwreck, caused by the terrible conditions at sea, including the King of Naples and Prospero’s treacherous brother, Antonio. Miranda, Prospero’s daughter, begs her father to stop the storm. Prospero’s slave, Caliban, plots to rid himself of his master, but is thwarted by Prospero’s spirit-servant Ariel. The King’s young son Ferdinand, thought to be dead, falls in love with Prospero’s daughter, Miranda. Their celebrations are cut short when Prospero confronts his brother and reveals his identity as the usurped Duke of Milan. The families are reunited and all conflict is resolved. Prospero grants Ariel his freedom and prepares to leave the island.</p>
Characters	Key Vocabulary	Key Terminology
<p>Alonso –King of Naples Sebastian –Alonso’s brother Ferdinand –Alonso’s son Antonio–Prospero’s brother. Antonio stole Prospero’s title as Duke of Milan. Gonzalo–the old counsellor to the King of Naples Trinculo –a jester Stephano –a drunken butler Prospero–the rightful Duke of Milan Miranda –Prospero’s daughter Ariel –an airy spirit; a slave of Prospero’s who earns his freedom Caliban –a savage and deformed slave of Prospero’s; a native of the island</p>	<p>Usurp – to take control of someone else’s power when you do not have the right to. Someone who usurps is called a usurper. Tempest –a violent storm Treason –a crime that harms your country or government Someone who commits treason is a traitor. Callous – when someone is cruel and does not care about other people Pathos – a situation that makes us feel sympathy or sorrow Nurture – to encourage or support the development of someone or something Tragicomedy – a play that has some features of a tragedy and some features of a comedy Supernatural - attributed to some force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature</p>	<p>Imagery - Language which creates vivid sensory ideas in the reader’s mind. e.g. The image of the storm to reflect chaos Simile - An explicit comparison between two things using ‘like’ or ‘as’ Metaphor - An implicit comparison between two things not using ‘like’ or ‘as’ Personification - Attributing human-like qualities to objects, ideas or animals Iambic Pentameter - Iambic pentameter is a type of metric line used in traditional English poetry and verse drama. Prospero often speaks in iambic pentameter to demonstrate his authority Blank verse - Most characters speak in blank verse with rhyming couplets for key moments Rhyming couplet - Two successive rhyming lines, Soliloquy - When a character, thinking they are alone, speaks their thoughts aloud Act - A part of the play and a tool to separate the performance and settings Scene - A smaller part of the act defined by changing of characters. Stage Directions - Added by the playwright to tell the actors how to move or speak</p>