



### 1. Dramatic devices

- Genre – tragicomedy
- Protagonist
- Antagonist
- Prose
- Verse
- Iambic pentameter
- Monologue
- Soliloquy
- Stage directions
- Dramatic irony
- Foreshadowing
- Parody
- Comic relief
- Exclamative sentence
- Interrogative sentence
- Imperative sentence
- Declarative sentence

### 2. Themes

Power and conflict  
Magic and supernatural  
Teaching and learning  
Freedom  
Justice and revenge  
Empathy and forgiveness

### 3. Context

1600s  
Jacobean era  
Witchcraft, magic  
Fate  
Patriarchal society  
Colonialism  
Shipwrecks and storms  
Chain of being

### 4. Key Characters

- **Prospero**, rightful duke of Milan
- **Miranda**, daughter of Prospero, falls in love with Ferdinand
- **Ariel**, the spirit of the island, controlled by Prospero
- **Alonso**, king of Naples
- **Ferdinand**, Alonso's son, falls in love with Miranda
- **Gonzalo**, councillor to the king
- **Antonio**, usurped the dukedom of Milan from his brother Prospero
- **Sebastian**, Alonso's brother
- **Caliban**, a native of the island, enslaved by Prospero
- **Trinculo** and **Stephano**, drunken jester and butler

# The Tempest

## by William Shakespeare

### 5. Plot summary

**Act 1:** Prospero makes the spirit Ariel conjure a storm to strike king Alonso's ship. Prospero explains to his daughter how they came to be on the island and argues with Caliban over who owns the island. Miranda and Ferdinand begin to fall in love.

**Act 2:** Gonzalo reassures Alonso, who thinks his son Ferdinand is dead, whilst Sebastian and Antonio plot to murder Alonso and Gonzalo. Ariel overhears and tells Prospero. Caliban offers to serve Stephano and Trinculo and shows them the island.

**Act 3:** Whilst Ferdinand and Miranda fall further in love, Prospero continues on his mission for revenge and justice. Meanwhile Caliban persuades Stephano and Trinculo that they could murder Prospero. Ariel teases the sinful shipwrecked, starved men with a mouth-watering vanishing feast.

**Act 4:** Prospero grants Ferdinand Miranda's hand in marriage. Ariel tells Prospero of Caliban's plan to murder him so he sends spirits in the form of hunting dogs to chase them away.

**Act 5:** Ariel reports back to Prospero about his other enemies (Alonso, Gonzalo and companions) who are brought to Prospero's cell - along with Caliban, Trinculo and Stephano - where he makes it clear he is going to abandon magic and forgive all of them. He shows Alonso that Ferdinand is alive.

**Epilogue:** Prospero remains on stage, and asks the audience to applaud in order to 'release' him.