

The Tempest - Leader Copy

A 20 minute condensed version of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare

Additional narration and editing by Angela Christie

for Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan's

#ShakespearesaskLive

Recommended for ages 8+ (participants must be able to read)

Recommended for use on Zoom, but could be adapted for other platforms

To prepare prior to the reading:

1. Do a little bit of research or discussion about Shakespeare, the Elizabethan era, and the play. (Resources available under "Study Guide" on Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan website) A lot of prior knowledge is NOT necessary in order to understand this play, but always adds to the experience.
2. Assign roles. There are 12 roles altogether in this version of *The Tempest*, but it would be possible to do it with less than 12 participants if they are willing to play multiple roles - this can be done by changing costume or holding up character name cards.
 - a. A strong reader is necessary for the Narrator role, or the leader may choose to read this character themselves. Either way, the leader should be available and able to help participants with pronunciation and comprehension throughout the reading.
 - b. If you have more than 12 participants, multiple people can play the same role by splitting up the lines and holding up Character name cards while speaking, or the rest of the group can play the very important role of "audience". Depending on your group's age, you could also plan to do the play twice, switching characters, or add a reading of *Macbeth*.
3. Ask participants to think about their assigned character description and put together a minimal costume and any needed props (suggestion next to character descriptions).
4. Encourage participants to have fun acting and reacting during the reading.
5. Remind participants of Zoom etiquette and Zoom operation suggestions listed below.
6. The play reading should take approx. 20-30 minutes, so plan your time together accordingly.
7. For readings using electronic devices: Ask the participants to consider how they will read the script during the reading:
 - a. From the same device?
 - b. From a second device?
 - c. From a printed script?

Optional: You may want to give participants access to the script ahead of time so that they can practice their lines.

Re. Zoom operation:

1. The actor playing the Narrator can stay unmuted and keep their video on throughout the reading.
2. All other actors should operate their own audio and video by turning audio and video ON when the script says their character "enters" and by turning audio and video OFF when the script says their character "exits".
3. If there are extra participants who will play the part of the audience, their audio and video should be turned off for the duration of the reading.
4. All participants can click on the three "... " in the upper right hand corner of a

participant's window and then again on "hide non-video participants video" - this will help focus everyone's attention on what's going on in each scene.

5. While reading, the Narrator should wait to speak until all necessary characters are on-screen. You may also want to have someone in your group responsible for reminding the participants when to "exit" and "enter".

Character descriptions, number of lines, and suggested props/costumes:

Narrator - many lines

Miranda - 4 lines, a 15 year old girl (flowers in her hair)

Prospero - 8 lines, Miranda's father (magic wand or robe)

Ariel - 2 lines, a fairy (wings) *will need 2 stuffed dogs as props later in the play

Caliban - 1 line and 1 monologue (can be cut), a wild man, son of a witch (dirty, ragged jacket)

Alonso - 2 lines, a King (a large crown)

Ferdinand - 1 line, Alonso's son (a small crown)

Sebastian - 1 line, the King's brother (an evil moustache)

Gonzalo - 1 line, Sebastian's advisor (glasses)

Antonio - 1 line, a Duke (a nice hat)

Stephano - 2 lines, a butler (a bottle of pop)

Trinculo - 2 lines, a jester (a funny hat)

Script begins now:

The Tempest

(Enter: Narrator, Miranda, Prospero, Ariel, and Caliban)

NARRATOR: The Tempest takes place on a magical island where Miranda, Prospero, Ariel and Caliban live.

(Exit: All except Narrator)

(Enter: Alonso, Ferdinand, Sebastian, Gonzalo, Antonio, Stephano, and Trinculo)

There is a boat passing by the island. Suddenly, there is a huge storm at sea. Everyone on the boat is shouting. King Alonso of Naples is on board with his son, Prince Ferdinand. The king's brother, Sebastian, and his advisor, Gonzalo, Duke Antonio, a butler, Stephano, and a jester, Trinculo, all expect to drown.

GONZALO: *"Farewell my wife and children!"*

TRINCULO: *"We split, we split, we split!"*

ANTONIO: *"Let's all sink with the king."*

(Exit: All except Narrator.)

(Enter: Miranda, Prospero)

NARRATOR: From a nearby island Miranda watches the huge tempest. She is fifteen and has never known anything other than this island life. She lives with her father, Prospero, who has studied magic. Prospero is helped by his spirit Ariel and a slave Caliban, who is the son of an old witch called Sycorax.

Miranda cries as she watches the shipwreck. She begs her father to calm the storm. She suspects that he might have created it. He reassures her that it will calm down now and that no one will be harmed.

MIRANDA: *“If you have made these waters wild, my dearest father, please stop them.”*

PROSPERO: *“Be collected: there’s no harm done.”*

(Enter: Ariel)

NARRATOR: Ariel has helped Prospero to make the storm and he asks for his freedom in return.

PROSPERO: *“What is it that you ask of me?”*

ARIEL: *“My liberty.”*

NARRATOR: Prospero refuses and reminds Ariel how he rescued him from the trunk of a pine tree where the witch Sycorax had left him. Prospero will free him in just two days.

PROSPERO: *“Dost thou forget from what a torment I did free thee? After two days I will discharge thee.”*

(Exit: Ariel)

NARRATOR: Prospero tells Miranda of their past. Before coming to the island 12 years ago, he was the Duke of Milan. But as Duke, he was so involved with his books and secret studies that he did not realise that his brother, Antonio, was stealing power from him. Together with King Alonso, Antonio plotted against Prospero. Soldiers dragged Miranda and Prospero from their home. Miranda was just three years old. They were put out to sea in a small rotten boat and left to die. They were given food and water by Gonzalo who pitied them. Prospero and Miranda finally arrived at the island. Since then, Prospero has used it as a place for studying magic.

MIRANDA: *“Your tale, sir, would cure deafness.”*

(Enter: Caliban)

NARRATOR: Prospero made Caliban into a slave because he caught him trying to flirt with Miranda. Enraged, Prospero has made Caliban chop wood ever since and he uses his magic to inflict pain upon him. Caliban is deeply unhappy in his captive life.

CALIBAN: *“This island's mine, by Sycorax my mother,
Which thou takest from me. When thou camest first,
Thou strokedst me and madest much of me, wouldst give me
Water with berries in't, and teach me how
To name the bigger light, and how the less,
That burn by day and night: and then I loved thee
And show'd thee all the qualities o' the isle,
The fresh springs, brine-pits, barren place and fertile:
Cursed be I that did so! All the charms
Of Sycorax, toads, beetles, bats, light on you!
For I am all the subjects that you have,
Which first was mine own king: and here you sty me
In this hard rock, whiles you do keep from me
The rest o' the island.
You taught me language; and my profit on't
Is, I know how to curse. The red plague rid you
For learning me your language!”*

(Exit: All except Narrator)

(Enter: Alonso, Sebastian)

NARRATOR: The shipwrecked crew wander around the island amazed, searching for each other. King Alonso is unconsolable as he mourns for his son Ferdinand, who he fears has drowned.

ALONSO: *“My son is lost! O my heir of Naples and of Milan, what strange fish has made his meal on you?”*

NARRATOR: As King Alonso grieves, his brother, Sebastian, plots to kill Alonso and become king himself.

SEBASTIAN: *“With Alonso's heir, the Prince Ferdinand, dead, all it will take is one stroke of this sword against my brother for me to become King myself.”*

(Exit: Alonso, Sebastian)

(Enter: Caliban, Stephano, Trinculo)

NARRATOR: Stephano wanders round the island with Trinculo. They encounter Caliban and think he is a monster.

STEPHANO: *“This is some monster of the island with four legs!”*

TRINCULO: *“He smells like a fish -- a very old fish!”*

NARRATOR: But they then realise he is not a monster at all. Stephano persuades them that they should murder Prospero and take over the island.

CALIBAN: *“He will be sleeping in a half an hour, will you destroy him then?”*

STEPHANO: *“Ay, on my honour.”*

(Exit: Caliban, Stephano, Trinculo)

(Enter: Ferdinand, Miranda, Prospero)

NARRATOR: Ferdinand meets Miranda and they fall instantly in love.

FERDINAND: *“Most sure, you are the goddess that such beautiful music plays for! I’ll make you the queen of Naples!”*

MIRANDA: *“I might call you divine; for nothing natural I ever saw so noble.”*

NARRATOR: Prospero wants them to be together but tests their love first. He makes Ferdinand chop and carry endless logs. Miranda is tormented by her father's treatment of him and pities the Prince. She asks him to marry her and he agrees. Prospero sees the couple's engagement, and knows that Ferdinand is a good man and is happy for them.

PROSPERO: *“While it would be impossible for me to be as happy as they are, nothing else could make me rejoice more.”*

(Exit: Ferdinand, Miranda)

(Enter: Trinculo, Stephano, Caliban, Ariel with 2 dogs)

NARRATOR: Trinculo, Stephano and Caliban prepare to attack Prospero, but he and Ariel are prepared and send spirit dogs to hound and chase them away.

ARIEL: *“Hark, they roar! Fury, fury! there, Tyrant, there! hark, hark!”*

PROSPERO: *“Let them be hunted soundly.”*

(Exit: All except Prospero and Narrator)

(Enter: Alonso, Antonio, Gonzalo, Sebastian, Ferdinand, Miranda)

NARRATOR: The king's party meets Prospero, who explains a little of what has been happening.

PROSPERO: *“Behold, sir king, the wronged Duke of Milan, Prospero. I bid you all a hearty welcome.”*

NARRATOR: Prospero explains to everyone that he needed to settle something with his brother Antonio. After demanding his dukedom back from his brother, Prospero thanks Gonzalo for helping them escape.

PROSPERO: *“Gonzalo, noble friend, let me embrace you, whose honour cannot be measured or confined.”*

NARRATOR: King Alonso is apologetic. Prospero forgives him and then shows them Ferdinand and Miranda playing chess. Miranda is amazed and enchanted by seeing so many people.

MIRANDA: *“How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world / That has such people in it!”*

NARRATOR: Alonso is overjoyed to see his son is alive. He announces the love between Miranda and Ferdinand and that the young lovers will be married and Prospero will again become Duke in Milan.

ALONSO: *“Give me your hands: Let grief and sorrow fall on anyone who does not wish you joy!”*

NARRATOR: Prospero abandons his magic powers and gives Ariel his freedom.

PROSPERO: *“You shall be free. Now my charms are all gone And what strength I have's mine own.”*

NARRATOR: The boat magically appears in perfect condition, and they all board to go back home to Italy because, after all, Ferdinand and Miranda have a wedding to plan! Ariel ensures no storm would threaten their boat, and they all lived happily ever after.

The End