



MTC STUDY GUIDE

# The Tempest

by William Shakespeare

## About This Play

Get ready for a whirlwind of magic, mischief, and laughter in *The Tempest*, a fantastical adventure! This bilingual performance in English and Spanish, brought to life by the Hand2Hand Team, follows the mighty Duchess Próspera and her daughter as they journey to a mysterious island filled with magical creatures. With toe-tapping tunes, hilarious hijinks, and lovable characters, young audiences will be transported into a world where love conquers all and justice shines bright. Featuring six delightful characters, this adaptation promises an enchanting experience for everyone!



### KEYWORD

**Adaptation:** A retelling of a story that changes some parts, like characters or setting, to create a fresh, new version. For example, in this adaptation, Prospero is a woman rather than a man, as in traditional versions of the play.

## Main Characters

- **Prospero:** The wise magician and the main character. She controls the island's magic and wants justice for being betrayed by her brother.
- **Miranda:** Prospero's kind and caring daughter. She's never met anyone else except her mother and the island creatures.
- **Ariel:** A magical spirit who serves Prospero. Ariel helps create the storm and performs other magical tasks.
- **Caliban:** A creature on the island who believes it belongs to him. He doesn't get along with Prospero.
- **Antonio:** Prospero's brother who betrayed him and took over his place as Duke of Milan.



## Summary of the Story

*The Tempest* is a magical story about a powerful storm, an enchanted island, and a wise magician named Prospero. She lives on the island with her daughter, Miranda. Prospero used to be the Duchess of Milan, but her brother Antonio betrayed her and took her place. Now, with the help of her magic and a magical spirit named Ariel, Prospero brings Antonio and other people to her island to teach them a lesson. Along the way, they meet strange creatures, experience magic, and learn about forgiveness.

## Important Themes

- **Magic and Nature:** The play is full of magic, which Prospero controls. The island itself feels magical, filled with spirits and strange sounds.
- **Forgiveness:** Instead of seeking revenge, Prospero learns to forgive those who wronged her.
- **Friendship and Loyalty:** Ariel is loyal to Prospero, and there are characters who try to help each other throughout the story.

## Fun Facts

- *The Tempest* was written by William Shakespeare around 1610–1611 and is believed to have been one of his final plays. It was first performed in 1611.
- Many people believe Prospero's character might be a little like Shakespeare himself, as he was also saying goodbye to the theater.
- The play includes one of Shakespeare's most famous quotes: "We are such stuff as dreams are made on."



William Shakespeare

## Activities

### 1. Create Your Own Magic Island!

Draw a picture of an island with everything you'd like if you were stranded on one. Would there be magic creatures? What kind of plants and animals would be there?

### 2. Storm in a Bottle

Create a "storm in a bottle" to bring *The Tempest* to life! You'll need a bottle, water, blue food coloring, and glitter. Fill the bottle, add a few drops of blue food coloring, sprinkle in some glitter, and shake it up to make your own tempest!

### 3. Role Play!

Act out a scene from *The Tempest*. One person can be Prospero, another Ariel, and another Miranda. How would you act if you were on a magical island?

### 4. Character Collage

Create a collage of the main characters using old magazines, drawings, or printed images. Include some words that describe each character (e.g., "loyal" for Ariel, "wise" for Prospero).



## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Prospero used magic to create the storm?
2. How do you think Miranda feels meeting other people for the first time?
3. Do you think Prospero made the right choice by forgiving her brother, Antonio? Why or why not?
4. This play was written over 400 years ago—why do you think its themes and characters remain relevant today?

## Miami International Children's Theatre Festival

**Miami Theater Center (MTC)** is thrilled to partner with **Conecta Miami Arts** for the inaugural Miami International Children's Theatre Festival this November, featuring five outstanding theater companies from Argentina, Mexico, Spain, and right here in Miami! The festival will be held at two venues, MTC and **Sandrell Rivers Theater**, both organizations that champion theater for young audiences. For more information, visit [conectamiamiarts.org](http://conectamiamiarts.org).

