

The Tempest



William Shakespeare was an English playwright, poet, and actor. Probably written in 1610–1611, *The Tempest* is thought to be one of the last plays that Shakespeare wrote. After the first scene, which takes place on a ship at sea during a tempest, the rest of the story is set on a remote island, where Prospero, a complex and contradictory character, lives with his daughter Miranda, and his two servants: Caliban, a savage monster figure, and Ariel, an airy spirit. The play explores many themes, including magic, betrayal, revenge, and family.

In the 1600s, **colonialism** was common practice for many European countries such as Britain who established colonies in other parts of the world for economic gain, religious conversion and national prestige. Countries like Britain, France, Spain and Portugal colonised many areas of the world such as North and South America, Africa and Asia, forcefully taking over the land and imposing their own laws, cultures and languages on the indigenous people. The colonies were used as a source of raw materials and led to the exploitation and oppression of many.

Key Knowledge	Definition
auditory imagery	Description focused on sound, created by techniques such as plosives (hard, explosive sounding consonants: p, t, k, g, b and d), sibilance (repeated 'sss' and 'sh' sounds) and onomatopoeia (words which create the sound of what is being described)
fate	The idea that our lives are already predestined or 'written in the stars'; destiny.
playwright	The writer of a play.
tyrant	A ruler who exercises absolute power oppressively or brutally.
usurp	Take a position of power or importance illegally or by force.
aside	A dramatic device in which a character speaks to the audience, who understand that their speech is unheard by the other characters on stage – it is that character's private thoughts.
verse	Writing arranged in lines that have rhythm and that often rhyme at the end.
prose	Any written work that follows a basic grammatical structure (words and phrases arranged into sentences and paragraphs).
colonialism	When one nation controls another, conquering its population and exploiting it, often while forcing its own language and cultural values upon its people.
dramatic irony	The situation in which the audience knows something that the characters do not know.
exposition	The early part of a play in which the audience learns where and when the play takes place, who the main characters are, and what the central conflict of the play will be.
denouement	The final part of a play, film, or narrative in which the strands of the plot are drawn together and matters are explained or resolved.
monologue	A long speech by one actor.
epilogue	A section or speech at the end of a book or play that serves as a comment on or a conclusion to what has happened.
comedy	A type of romantic comedy in which the story ends happily, often with a marriage between the various characters.
tragedy	A play dealing with tragic events and having an unhappy ending, especially one concerning the downfall of the main character.