



The Tempest Reading Comprehension **Answers**

Comprehension Questions

Use full sentences to answer the following questions in your exercise book.

1. Identify what drives Prospero to create the tempest at the beginning of the play.
He seeks justice and a chance to confront his betrayers, especially his brother Antonio.
2. Describe Prospero's relationship with Ariel and how it changes throughout the play.
Prospero and Ariel's relationship undergoes a significant transformation throughout the play. Ariel is initially a servant who is bound to Prospero's commands. Over time, they develop mutual respect for one another which leads Prospero to free Ariel by the end of the play.
3. Identify how Miranda feels when she first meets Ferdinand.
Miranda is captivated and falls in love with Ferdinand.
4. Outline Prospero's reaction to the attraction between Miranda and Ferdinand.
Prospero is cautious yet supportive of Miranda's feelings towards Ferdinand and identifies an opportunity for alliance.
5. Identify why Prospero chose forgiveness instead of revenge by the end of the play.
Prospero realises that forgiveness will bring him peace, which demonstrates personal growth.
6. Explain the significance of the island as a setting for the play's themes of power and transformation.
It symbolises isolation, power and transformation because it is a place where characters are taken away from their regular lives and have to face their inner truths.
7. Identify the role Caliban plays in the story.
He is the island's original inhabitant who feels wronged by Prospero.
8. Explain how Caliban may represent a different perspective on the island.
He represents the idea of resentment and how harbouring this feeling can change a person's overall personality and demeanour, as well as the way they interact with the world.

9. Describe how the illusions created by Ariel influence Alonso and Antonio's attitudes toward Prospero.

By showing them visions of their guilt, Ariel induces regret in Alonso, leading him to acknowledge his wrongdoings and seek reconciliation with Prospero. In contrast, Antonio remains defiant and unapologetic, revealing his entrenched ambition and lack of remorse. This contrast highlights Alonso's capacity for change and redemption, while Antonio's attitude underscores his unwavering pursuit of power and disregard for morality.

10. Explain how 'The Tempest' explores the consequences of betrayal and the possibility of redemption.

Through reconciliation, Shakespeare highlights that forgiveness can restore harmony, even after deep betrayal. For example, Prospero's brother Antonio betrays him by usurping his dukedom, leading to Prospero's exile. Despite this, Prospero ultimately chooses forgiveness over vengeance, demonstrating the possibility of redemption. Similarly, Alonso, who conspired with Antonio, seeks forgiveness and shows genuine remorse, which Prospero accepts, allowing for a peaceful resolution. These moments illustrate that while betrayal causes significant harm, redemption is achievable through repentance and forgiveness, underscoring the play's central message of renewal and reconciliation.

11. Identify how the union between Miranda and Ferdinand reflects Prospero's hopes for the future.

It symbolises hope, healing and a new start, which is central to Prospero's intentions.

12. Explain the message Shakespeare conveys through Prospero's decision to renounce his magic and free Ariel.

Prospero's decision to renounce his magic and free Ariel reflects his journey towards wisdom and self-awareness. By choosing to abandon his supernatural powers, Prospero acknowledges the limitations and potential dangers of controlling others, prioritising humanity and moral responsibility over dominion. His freeing of Ariel symbolises his own liberation from vengeance and the burden of his past, as he chooses reconciliation and forgiveness instead. This decision reinforces themes of humility, growth and the recognition that true power lies in compassion and the ability to let go, making way for harmony and renewal.