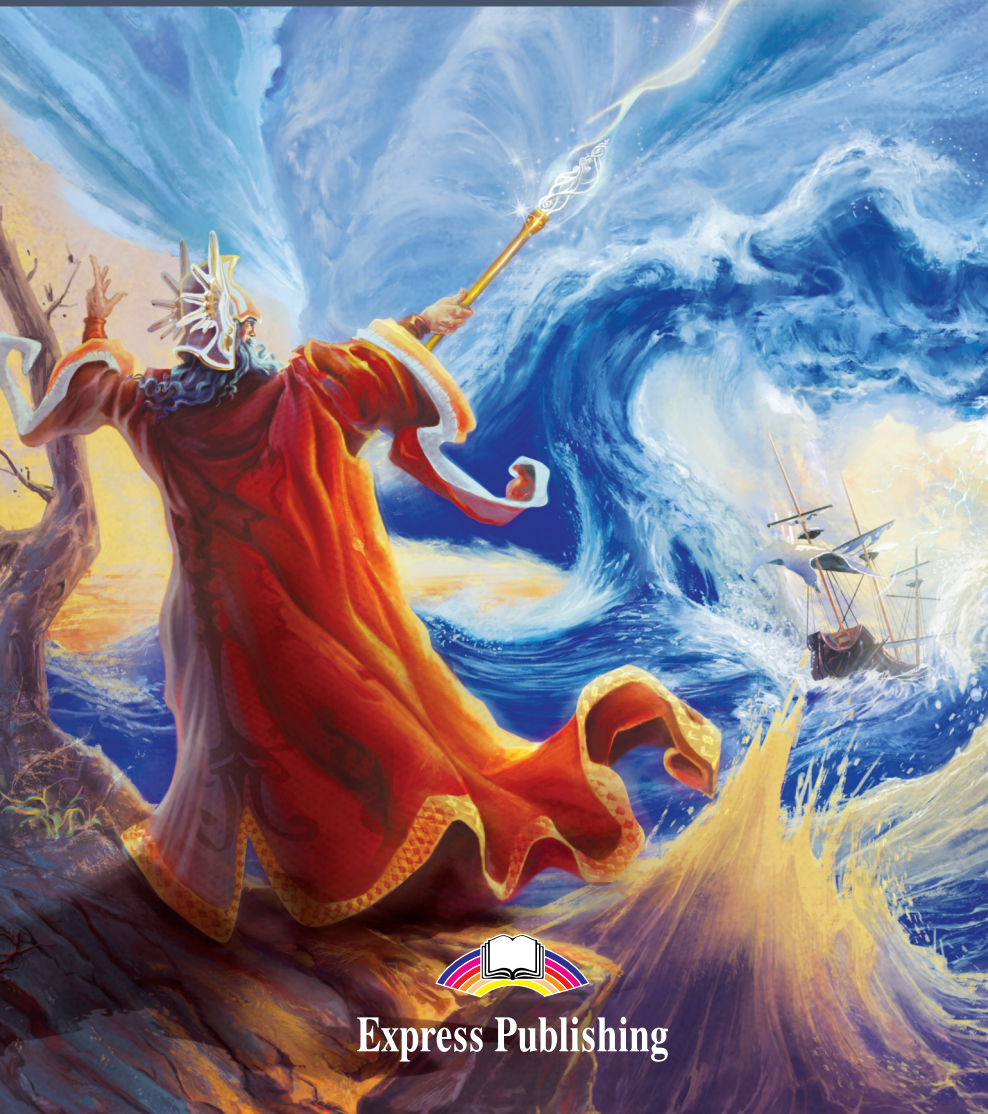
Classic Readers

THE TEMPEST

William Shakespeare

retold by Jenny Dooley



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Chapter 2

The Sorcerer's Story

Two solitary figures stood on the shore while the ship was being thrown around and swept onto the large jagged rocks. Neither the howling wind nor the massive waves seemed to touch either of them as they both watched the drama unfold intently. The tall one, standing fearlessly and strong, was a man holding a strange staff with a luminescent crystal on the top. The small form next to him was almost completely hidden by the man's bold red flowing robe. Her long hair dancing about in the wind was the only indication there was another person standing there at all. After the ear-shattering crash of the ship splitting into two covered the doleful screams of its passengers, her pale face turned towards the man.

"If with your art, my dearest father, you have caused these waters to roar, please stop it. Their cries broke my heart. Poor souls, they died. If I had the power, I would have sunk the sea into the earth before it swallowed that fine ship with all the good people she carried."

"Miranda, my daughter, collect yourself. No one was harmed."

Miranda's beautiful hazel eyes brimmed with tears.

"Oh, what a terrible day!"

Her father smiled reassuringly.

"Don't worry. I'm telling you, not a single person is harmed. Everything I've ever done has been for you. For my beautiful daughter, who is ignorant of her own and her father's true identity."

Miranda looked surprised.

"It never occurred to me that there was more to know."

The man gently guided Miranda to a rock large enough to sit on and turned his steady gaze on her youthful tear-stained face.

"It's time I revealed the truth about our past. Now help me take off my sorcerer's cloak and lay my magic to rest. Wipe your eyes

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and calm down, Miranda. I've arranged this tempest and the wrecking of that ship so carefully so that no one was harmed—not a single hair on their heads. Sit down and listen, because it's time you knew who your father is."

"You have often started to tell me who I am, but stopped and left my questions about our past unanswered, saying it was not yet the time."

"Can you remember a time before we came to this place?"

"Yes, but it seems far off, more like a dream than a definite memory. Didn't I have four or five women tending me?"

After removing his cloak, and once Miranda had calmed down, he started his narration.

"Indeed you did, and more, Miranda. Twelve years ago, I, Prospero, was the Duke of Milan and a prince of power. You were my heir, a princess. You had all the luxuries befitting a lady of your rank."

"Good heavens! What foul play did we suffer that made us leave Milan? Or was it a blessing?"

"Both, my dear. We were cast here by foul play, as you say, but it was also a blessing to have arrived on this island in the end. Now listen. I was famous for my dignity and my love of learning, and my state was the strongest in the land, so I entrusted its running to my brother, Antonio—the person I loved most in the world after yourself, and I still can't believe he could be so deceitful! Since I was so engrossed in my studies, I lost control of both my brother and the state—are you listening?"

"Yes, my father."

"When Antonio perfected the skill of granting suits and denying others, promoting some men and demoting others, he swayed my people to his will. I was so shut away from the world and trusted him so completely that I, unintentionally, aroused evil thoughts in my disloyal brother. Having the power and wealth to control the entire

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A Perfect Match

Comprehension

Read or listen to Chapter 6 and answer the following questions.

1 What is the chore Prospero gave Ferdinand?
2 How does Ferdinand feel about the chore and why?
3 Where is Prospero?
4 Why is Miranda upset she told Ferdinand her name?
5 What does Prospero think about Miranda and Ferdinand's union?
6 What encouraged Miranda to ask Ferdinand to marry her?

What do you think?

A Discuss the following questions.

1 Miranda says that she considers her virtue to be her "*most precious jewel*". What other qualities do you consider important in a person and why? What do you think is your best quality?
2 Ferdinand is so in love with Miranda that he willingly gives up his status and honour in order to serve her. How important do you think love is—in all its forms (e.g. the love of a parent/sibling/friend, etc.)? What would you be willing to sacrifice for it? Can you think of other examples of sacrifice that can be made in the name of love?

B Find the following extracts from Chapter 6 and discuss their meanings.

1 p. 46: '*Although he had never carried out such a hard and low-born chore before, his labour was made pleasurable by the thought of doing it for this gentle creature. While her bad-tempered father would bark harsh orders at him, she would watch him work like a slave and weep. Just thinking of her made his struggle easier and spurred him on to work harder.*'
2 p. 47: "*You poor thing. You're infected with love! Your ways with him show it clearly.*"

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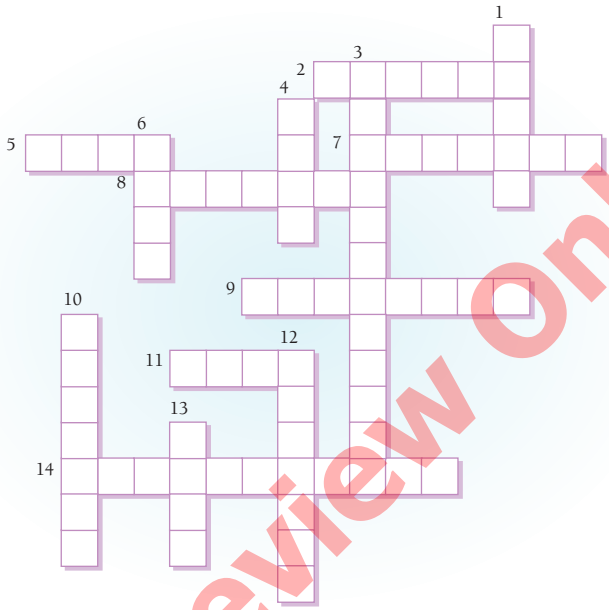
Language Practice

Fill in the crossword, using vocabulary from Chapter 6.



Across

2 moral goodness
5 forehead
7 able to endure hardship without complaining
8 to carry out a plan or order
9 very bad or unpleasant
11 the part of a plant that grows into the ground and gets food and water
14 full of strong emotion

Down

1 a valuable stone used as decoration
3 a fault or weakness
4 an individual
6 to cry
10 clever at achieving your goals, esp. by tricking people
12 boring
13 to shout sth quickly and aggressively

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All The World's A Stage

There are many different forms of **theatre** around the world, and they are all an important part of a country's culture—from *classical Greek* theatre and *Roman* theatre, to Japanese *Kabuki* theatre and the puppet theatre of the Islamic world. All forms have their own individual characteristics, but all also have the same goals: artistic expression and entertainment.

Make a poster

I *Choose a particular form of theatre that interests you. It can be from any time period and any country. Research it using whatever resources you have available (school library, Internet etc.) to find as much information and as many illustrations or photos as possible on this form of theatre. Look for information on historical background, where performances take place, details on the performances (do they include music, dance, etc.?), the kind of costumes/ props/set used, the genres performed and the most famous playwrights or performers of this form of theatre.*

II *You are going to make a poster on this form of theatre. Select the information and photos or illustrations you want featured. Then decide on how you want everything arranged. Use the following tips:*

- Use callouts, text boxes, different colours or writing styles to organise everything in an eye-catching manner.
- Make sure the text is clearly legible and that the title stands out.

III *Present your poster to the class. Be prepared to answer questions in case your classmates need more explanation about the points you have featured.*

Example:

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THE TEMPEST

On the way from his daughter's wedding in Tunis, King Alonso's ship is hit by a violent storm that threatens everyone's lives, including his brother's and the Duke of Milan's. Marooned on an island filled with strange creatures and noises, their past conspiracy against the true Duke of Milan, Prospero, is revealed. How will the magic and illusion on the island affect them? Will justice be served in the end?

Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5 Level 6

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- **Reader**
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