

Year 7 Cycle 2 – English Knowledge Organiser - *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare (c.1611)

1.1 Timeline of events

Act 1

A tempest shipwrecks the King of Naples and his party who are returning back from a wedding. Prospero explains that it is all a part of his plot for vengeance.

Act 2

King Alonso is worried about what has happened to his son Ferdinand, Ariel enters, invisible, and sends them all to sleep. Antonio convinces Sebastian to kill his brother, Alonso. When Sebastian and Antonio raise their swords to kill Alonso, Alonso awakes.

Act 3

Prospero's daughter, Miranda, falls in love with King Alonso's son, Ferdinand. They plan to marry. Caliban, Stephano and Trinculo plot to kill Prospero.

Act 4

Prospero has set Ferdinand free and agrees to their marriage. He tells Ferdinand and Miranda that he agrees to the marriage.

Act 5

Prospero forgives his brother and Alonso. Ariel is freed. All are united by the marriage between Ferdinand and Miranda.

1.2 Characters	
1. Prospero	sorcerer trapped on an island after Antonio betrayed him for the title of Duke of Milan
2. Miranda	Prospero's daughter: brought to the island at a young age; naïve and compassionate
3. Ariel	Prospero's servant: playful and magical spirit; mischievous but loyal
4. Caliban	Prospero's servant: son of witch Sycorax; believes the island is rightfully his; rude, coarse and brutal
5. Ferdinand	son of Alonso: loyal; falls in love with Miranda at first sight
6. King Alonso	king of Naples: helped Antonio usurp Prospero; learns to regret his actions
7. Antonio	Prospero's brother: power-hungry and foolish; usurped Prospero; plots to kill the King
8. Sebastian	Alonso's brother: aggressive and cowardly; easily persuaded to kill King Alonso

1.4 Key Themes	
1. revenge and forgiveness	Prospero plots revenge upon his brother and Alonso; Caliban plots revenge against Prospero for taking the island; Prospero forgives
2. power	power is taken by force, and violence; Prospero exerts power over the island in different ways
3. magic	Prospero's magic gives him total control—he always seems to know what will happen next
4. tragicomedy	Serious issues are portrayed but combined with humour and a happy ending

1.3 Context (1-7) and Shakespearean Techniques	
1. Shakespearean Comedy	genre of Shakespearean play which is light-hearted and ends in a marriage
2. Jacobean period (1603-1625)	the literary and artistic period in which King James was monarch; followed the Elizabethan period
3. hierarchy	Jacobean society was structured in terms of importance: aristocrats at the top; peasants and animals at the bottom
4. patriarchy	it was typical that men were more powerful: fathers owned and gave away daughters to husbands
5. exploring	many areas of the world were yet to be discovered and there weren't any accurate globes or maps
6. magical beliefs	some Jacobeans believed in mystical creatures such as fairies; mischievous beings which were linked to nature
7. colonisation	powerful nations took over and ruled less powerful nations; natives would be treated harshly and with prejudice
8. stage direction	instructions in a script which inform actors of physical actions
9. aside	remarks made by characters which only the audience can hear
10. soliloquy	act of speaking one's thoughts aloud
11. epilogue	section at the end of a story which brings concluding thoughts
12. simile	figurative comparison using 'like' or 'as'
13. metaphor	figurative comparison where one thing is described as another
14. personification	attribution of living qualities to a non-living thing