Year 8: The Tempest Knowledge Organiser

Characters

Prospero – Former Duke of Milan. He has magical powers

Alonso – The King of Naples. He worked with Antonio to get rid of Prospero.

Antonio – Prospero's brother. He usurped Prospero by sending him away on a boat to become the Duke of Milan.

Sebastian – Alonso's brother, Prince of Naples. He plots to kill King Alonso with Antonio.

Gonzalo – The King's advisor/councillor. He gave Prospero clothes and books when he was sent away.

Miranda – Prospero's 15 year-old daughter.

Ariel – an airy spirit with magical powers. He worked for Prospero and wants to be set free.

Caliban – a native to the island. He is Prospero's slave.

Plot Summary

A storm overcomes a ship. Those onboard are shipwrecked and split up.

Prospero watches the storm with Miranda. He tells her everyone is fine and how 12 years ago, his brother Antonio usurped him.

The King believes that Ferdinand drowned. Ferdinand actually arrived safely and met Miranda. They instantly fall in love.

Sebastian and Antonio plot to kill the King while he is asleep but Ariel wakes them up.

Stephano, Caliban, and Trinculo intend to kill Prospero and make Stephano lord of the island. Ariel reports this to Prospero.

Prospero and Ariel set a trap that Stephano and Trinculo fall for. They are chased away by spirits disguised as dogs

Prospero forgives them and becomes Duke again. Ferdinand and Miranda will get married. The ship is safe. Prospero frees Ariel while Caliban and the servants are punished.

Key terms

Colonialism – when one country establishes itself in another country and negatively affects the native people. When someone colonises a new country, they are called a coloniser. The original inhabitants of the land are called natives. Prospero colonises the island. Caliban is a native.

Usurp – to take control of someone else's power when you do not have the right to. Someone who usurps is called a usurper. Antonio usurps Prospero.

Treason – a crime that harms your country or government. Someone who commits treason is a traitor. Antonio attempts to commit treason by killing King Alonso with Sebastian.

Callous – when someone is cruel and does not care about other people.

Pathos – a situation that makes us feel sympathy or sorrow.

Features of a tragedy	Features of a comedy
It has a sad ending, usually including a death.	It has a happy ending, usually including a marriage.
There are deaths in the play.	There are no deaths in the play.
There is at least one murder plot.	There is at least one romantic plot.
The play usually involves 'high' characters, like kings, queens, princes, princesses, lords and ladies.	One plot involves characters who aren't kings, queens, lords or ladies. They are servants and tradespeople. These characters get into ridiculous situations.
In tragedy, there can be confusion around who, or what, characters really are.	There is confusion around who characters really are.

Context

Queen Elizabeth 1 - She was fascinated by the adventures of explorers. They made her more wealthy and powerful.

Colonialism - In the new country, the colonisers often exploit the native people and their resources. There is an unequal relationship between the colonising people and the natives. The colonisers benefit and the natives suffer.

Explorers - Explorers brought back rewards for Queen Elizabeth, such as crops and jewels.

Italian city-states - Italy was ruled over by different leaders in each city. It was not unified.

Jacobean era - Shakespeare was born in the Elizabethan era, named after Elizabeth I. After she died, James I became king. This period of history is called the Jacobean era.

Christopher Columbus – He was an explorer who colonised the West Indies. The natives were negatively affected by this as 50,000 died due to war and execution.

Metaphor: 'a rotten carcass of a boat'

Tenor	The boat
Vehicle	The carcass
Ground	-A boat has a hollow inside, like a carcass. The walls are thin and look like they would break easily. -A broken or dangerous boat can have rotting (dying) wood, just like the rotting (dying) flesh on a carcass. - This suggests that idea of death as it seems like it could have killed Prospero.