

Name: _____

English IV Honors
The Tempest—Study Guide

Act I, Scene i

1. What is the setting of the action in scene i?
2. The storm undoubtedly suggests the title of the play; what other possible implications are suggested by the title?
3. How does the boatswain respond to the advice and commands of Alonso, Antonio, and Gonzalo?
4. Explain: “Must our mouths be cold?”
5. Why does Shakespeare begin this play with the description of a storm?

Act I, Scene ii

6. What do Miranda’s first words reveal about her character?
7. What does Prospero’s cloak symbolize?
8. Why does he remove his cloak when he begins to relate to Miranda the circumstances of their previous life?
9. Have any of those who were on the ship been killed or harmed?
10. How old was Miranda when she and Prospero arrived on the island? How old is she now at the time of the storm?
11. To whom had Prospero given his powers as Duke of Milan?
12. Why did Prospero abdicate his power?

13. How did Antonio betray Prospero? Who is Antonio's ally in this betrayal?
14. What plan did Antonio carry out to forever rid himself of Prospero?
15. Who helped Prospero and Miranda and how were they eventually saved from death?
16. Who is Ariel and what does he report?
17. What promise of Prospero does Ariel demand he fulfill?
18. Who are Sycorax and Caliban?
19. With what punishment does Prospero threaten Ariel if "murmured more"? How does Ariel respond to this threat?
20. How do Prospero and Miranda describe Caliban?
21. Why does Caliban say "there's wood enough within"?
22. How does Caliban describe himself beginning at line 396?
23. What was the first thing Prospero taught Caliban and what was the result?
24. How does Miranda react to the sight of Ferdinand?

25. Explain Prospero's aside—"it goes on, I see..."
26. Why does Prospero treat Ferdinand and Miranda so harshly when she tells of her fondness for Ferdinand?
27. When Miranda pleads for Ferdinand, what does Prospero mean when he says, "My foot my tutor?"?
28. What promise does Prospero make to Ariel?

Act II, Scene i

29. What comforting thoughts does Gonzalo have on their escape from the wreck and how do his companions respond?
30. Why were the king and his men at sea when the storm hit?
31. What regrets does Alonso express regarding the marriage of his daughter?
32. What observation does Gonzalo make regarding their clothing?
33. How does Sebastian speak to the king?
34. How does Gonzalo rebuke Sebastian?
35. What is Gonzalo's description of the commonwealth he would establish if he had the government of it?
36. How do Sebastian and Antonio speak about Gonzalo's ideas and what is Gonzalo's response to them?

37. What do Sebastian and Antonio plot once the others are put to sleep by Ariel?
38. If Ferdinand is dead, who is the next heir of Naples and why is that person inconsequential?
39. What do Sebastian and Antonio decide to do and how are they prevented from following through?
40. Why the difference in the effect of the music upon Sebastian and Antonio and Gonzalo?
41. How do Antonio and Sebastian explain their threatening attitude?
42. What does Gonzalo say to Alonso?

Act II, Scene ii

43. What description of his treatment by Prospero does Caliban give?
44. What is the structural difference between Caliban's speech (p. 77) and Trinculo's speech (pp. 77-79)?
What implications does this have about these two characters?
45. How does Stephano's singing affect Caliban?
46. How much religion can Stephano muster?
47. What does Caliban promise to do for them if they will not harm him?
48. Explain: "I'll kiss thy foot."
49. Why does Caliban rejoice?

Act III, Scene i

50. Why is Ferdinand working so hard?
51. How does Miranda console him?
52. What does Ferdinand's reaction to learning her name tell you about the meaning of the name "Miranda"?
53. Has Ferdinand had previous experience with women?
54. Explain Ferdinand's words to Miranda at ll. 71-79.
55. How does Prospero feel about what he has overheard?

Act III, Scene ii

56. What do Stephano and Trinculo say to Caliban?
57. Is Trinculo clever?
58. Whom does Caliban prefer, Stephano or Trinculo?
59. How does Stephano rebuke Trinculo?
60. What does Ariel say when he enters and how does he stir up trouble?
61. What information does Caliban give Stephano to help him overthrow Prospero?

62. Based on this information what does Stephano plan to do with Prospero and Miranda?

63. What does Ariel intend to do?

64. How does Caliban show superiority to Stephano and Trinculo?

Act III, Scene iii

65. What is the condition of Alonso and Gonzalo as the scene opens?

66. What is the dramatic purpose of their condition?

67. What do the asides between Antonio and Sebastian reveal?

68. At this point the men stumble upon a court masque. Masques were shows put on to entertain guests at functions such as weddings. How is Gonzalo affected by the music and what does Prospero say about his reaction?

69. Before the strange shapes depart, what do they do?

70. As the men were about to eat what happens to the banquet?

71. Where is the climax of the play?

72. What is the effect produced on Alonso, Sebastian, and Antonio by the show?

73. What does Gonzalo say about the three of them?

74. Explain “ecstasy.”

Act IV, Scene i

75. What does Ferdinand believe “against an oracle”?

76. When Prospero offers Miranda in marriage to Ferdinand, what warning does he give as well?

77. What orders does Prospero give to Ariel?

78. What is the dramatic purpose of the masque involving Iris, Juno, and Ceres?

79. What does Prospero suddenly remember at line 155?

80. Examine Prospero’s speech “Our revels now...rounded with a sleep” (ll.165-175). What message is he conveying through these words?

81. Where had Ariel left Caliban, Trinculo, and Stephano?

82. Though it appears Prospero is disturbed by the threat to his life, what do lines 211-216 reveal as the true disturbance?

83. What is most upsetting to Stephano and Trinculo about the trick Ariel has played on them?

84. How does Caliban prove, once again, to be much shrewder than these two men he serves?

85. How are the conspirators driven out of Prospero's cell and how are they punished?

86. How has the plot moved forward in this act?

Act V, Scene i

87. What does Prospero say about his project?

88. Explain: "My charms crack not"

89. Why does this scene open with a reference to time?

90. What report does Ariel give about "the king and his followers"?

91. Why is Gonzalo more distressed than the others?

92. According to Ariel, how would Prospero be affected if he could see them?

93. Why does Prospero order Ariel to release the men (according to his speech at lines 32-38)?

94. What does Prospero promise the elves (about his staff and book)?
95. What does Prospero say to Gonzalo, Alonso, and Sebastian?
96. Why does Prospero order Ariel to fetch his hat and rapier? What is he giving up and what responsibilities is he reclaiming?
97. What is the point of Ariel's song? How does it describe Ariel himself?
98. What does Alonso's reaction to Prospero's embrace tell us about his character?
99. What does Prospero tell Sebastian and Antonio in the aside?
100. What demand does Prospero make of Antonio?
101. How long has it been since the men were shipwrecked?
102. Alonso mourns the loss of his son, Ferdinand, and Prospero responds that he has also "lost" his daughter. In what way is Prospero being truthful and deceptive at the same time?
103. What is significant about Alonso's wish at lines 174-175?
104. What is Alonso's immediate reaction to the sight of Miranda and Ferdinand playing chess?

105. Explain: "O, brave new world that has such people in't!"

106. What is the purpose of Gonzalo's lines at 246-254?

107. What does the boatswain report?

108. When Stephano and Trinculo are driven in with Caliban, what is their state and attire?

109. What promise does Caliban make?

110. What does Prospero request when he addresses the audience in the epilogue?