TEMPEST character list

Alonso – King of Naples

Sebastian - Brother of Alonso, attempts to usurp him

Prospero - The rightful Duke of Milan, betrayed by his brother Antonio

Antonio - Brother of Prospero and usurper of his title

Ferdinand – Handsome son of Alonso and Prince of Naples

Gonzalo - Honest old councilor in the court of King Alonso

Caliban – Savage, deformed but eloquent slave; son of the dead witch Sycorax

Trinculo – Witty jester

Stephano – Alonso's drunken butler

Miranda - Daughter of Prospero; falls in love with Ferdinand

Ariel - Spirit of the island; servant to Prospero

Iris, Ceres and Juno – Goddesses who are summoned to offer blessings for Ferdinand and Miranda's wedding

Adrian and Francisco - Lords of Alonso's court

Now my dear lady, hath mine enemies Brought to this shore;

Here cease more questions: Thou art inclined to sleep; 'tis a good dulness, And give it way.

MIRANDA sleep.

Come away, servant, come. I am ready now. Approach, my Ariel, come.

Enter ARIEL

ARIEL

All hail, great master! grave sir, hail! I come To answer thy best pleasure; be't to fly, To swim, to dive into the fire, to ride On the curl'd clouds, to thy strong bidding task Ariel and all his quality.

PROSPERO

Hast thou, spirit, Perform'd to point the tempest that I bade thee? ARIEL

To every article.

I boarded the king's ship; now on the beak,
Now in the waist, the deck, in every cabin,
I flamed amazement: sometime I'ld divide,
And burn in many places; on the topmast,
The yards and bowsprit, would I flame distinctly,
Then meet and join. Jove's lightnings, the precursors
O' the dreadful thunder-claps, more momentary
And sight-outrunning were not; the fire and cracks
Of sulphurous roaring the most mighty Neptune
Seem to besiege and make his bold waves tremble,
Yea, his dread trident shake.

PROSPERO

My brave spirit!

Who was so firm, so constant, that this coil Would not infect his reason?

ARIEL

Not a soul. All but mariners Plunged in the foaming brine and quit the vessel, the king's son, Ferdinand, Was the first man that leap'd; cried, 'Hell is empty And all the devils are here.'

PROSPERO

But are they, Ariel, safe?

ARIEL

Not a hair perish'd;

On their sustaining garments not a blemish, But fresher than before: and, as thou badest me, In troops I have dispersed them 'bout the isle. The king's son have I landed by himself; Whom I left cooling of the air with sighs In an odd angle of the isle and sitting, His arms in this sad knot.

PROSPERO

Of the king's ship

The mariners say how thou hast disposed And all the rest o' the fleet.

ARIEL

Safely in harbour is the king's ship; The mariners all under hatches stow'd; Who, with a charm join'd to their suffer'd labour, I have left asleep.

PROSPERO

Ariel, thy charge

Exactly is perform'd: but there's more work.

What is the time o' the day?

ARIEL

Past the mid season.

PROSPERO

The time 'twixt six and now

Must by us both be spent most preciously.

ARIEL

Is there more toil? Since thou dost give me pains, Let me remember thee what thou hast promised, Which is not yet perform'd me.

PROSPERO

How now? moody?

What is't thou canst demand?

ARIEL

My liberty.

PROSPERO

Before the time be out? no more!

ARIEL

I prithee,

Remember I have done thee worthy service; Told thee no lies, made thee no mistakings, served Without or grudge or grumblings: thou didst promise To bate me a full year.

Go make thyself like a nymph o' the sea: be subject To no sight but thine and mine, invisible To every eyeball else.

Exit ARIEL

Awake, dear heart, awake! thou hast slept well; Awake!

MIRANDA

The strangeness of your story put Heaviness in me.

PROSPERO

Shake it off. Come on;

We'll visit Caliban my slave, who never

Yields us kind answer.

MIRANDA

'Tis a villain, sir

I do not love to look on.

PROSPERO

He does make our fire,

Fetch in our wood and serves in offices

That profit us. What, no! slave! Caliban!

Thou earth, thou! speak

CALIBAN

[Within] There's wood enough within.

PROSPERO

Come forth, I say! there's other business for thee: Prospero and Call Ban

Thou poisonous slave, got by the devil himself

Upon thy wicked dam, come forth!

Enter CALIBAN

CALIBAN

A south-west blow on ye And blister you all o'er!

PROSPERO

For this, be sure, to-night thou shalt have cramps, Side-stitches that shall pen thy breath up; urchins Shall, for that vast of night that they may work,

All exercise on thee.

CALIBAN

This island's mine, by Sycorax my mother, Which thou takest from me. When thou camest first, Thou strokedst me and madest much of me: and then I loved thee And show'd thee all the qualities o' the isle,

8

Cursed be I that did so! All the charms
Of Sycorax, toads, beetles, bats, light on you!
And here you sty me in this hard rock, whiles you do keep from me the rest of the island.

PROSPERO

Thou most lying slave, Whom stripes may move, not kindness! I have used thee, Filth as thou art, with human care, and lodged thee In mine own cell, till thou didst seek to violate The honour of my child.

CALIBAN

O ho, O ho! would't had been done! Thou didst prevent me; I had peopled else This isle with Calibans.

PROSPERO

Hag-seed, hence!
Fetch us in fuel; and be quick.
If thou neglect'st or dost unwillingly
What I command, I'll rack thee with old cramps,
Fill all thy bones with aches, make thee roar
That beasts shall tremble at thy din.

CALIBAN

No, pray thee.

Aside

I must obey: his art is of such power,

PROSPEROSo, slave; hence!

Exit CALIBAN

Re-enter ARIEL, invisible, playing and singing; FERDINAND following

ARIEL'S song.

Come unto these yellow sands,

And then take hands:

Courtsied when you have and kiss'd

The wild waves which

Foot it featly here and there;

And, sweet sprites, the burthen bear.

Hark, hark!

Burthen [dispersedly, within

The watch-dogs bark!

To FERDINAND

Come on.

Thou hast done well, fine Ariel!

To FERDINAND

Follow me.

MIRAND

Be of comfort;

My father's of a better nature, sir,

Than he appears by speech.

PROSPERO

Thou shalt be free

As mountain winds: but then exactly do

All points of my dommand.

ARIEL

To the syllable.

PROSPERO

Come, follow. Speak not for him.

Exeunt

ACT II

SCENE I. Another part of the island.

Enter ALONSO, SEBASTIAN, ANTONIO, GONZALO, ADRIAN, FRANCISCO, and others

GONZALO

Beseech you, sir, be merry; you have cause, So have we all, of joy; for our escape Is much beyond our loss.

ALONSO

Prithee, peace.

SEBASTIAN

He receives comfort like cold porridge

FRANCESCO

Though this island seems to be desert Uninhabitable and almost inaccessible

The air breathes upon us here most sweetly.

SEBASTIAN

As if it had lungs and rotten ones.

GONZALO

Here is everything advantageous to life.

Gonzalo; Alonso, Sebesticn; Antonio

ANTONIO

True; save means to live.

SEBASTIAN

Of that there's none, or little.

GONZALO

How lush and lusty the grass looks! how green!

ANTONIO

The ground indeed is tawny.

SEBASTIAN

With an eye of green in't.

FRANCESO

Methinks our garments are now as fresh as when we put them on first in Afric, at the marriage of the king's fair daughter Claribel to the King of Tunis.

SEBASTIAN

'Twas a sweet marriage, and we prosper well in our return.

GONZALO

Sir, we were talking that our garments seem now as fresh as when we were at Tunis at the marriage of your daughter, who is now queen.

ALONSO

You cram these words into mine ears against The stomach of my sense. Would I had never Married my daughter there! for, coming thence, My son is lost and, in my rate, she too

FRANCISCO

Sir, he may live:

I saw him beat the surges under him,

And ride upon their backs.

ADRIAN

I not doubt he came alive to land.

ALONSO

No, no, he's gone.

SEBASTIAN

Sir, you may thank yourself for this great loss.

ALONSO

Prithee, peace.

Enter ARIEL, invisible, playing solemn music

All sleep except ALONSO, SEBASTIAN, and ANTONIO

ALONSO

What, all so soon asleep! I wish mine eyes Would, with themselves, shut up my thoughts.

Please you, sir,

Do not omit the heavy offer of it.

ANTONIQ

We two, my lord,

Will guard your person while you take your rest,

And watch your safety.

ALONSO

Thank you. Wondrous heavy.

ALONSO sleeps. Exit ARIEL

sebastion to on on

SEBASTIAN

What a strange drowsiness possesses them!

ANTONIO

It is the quality o' the climate.

SEBASTIAN

Why

Doth it not then our eyelids sink? I find not Myself disposed to sleep.

ANTONIO

And yet me thinks I see it in thy face, What thou shouldst be: the occasion speaks thee, and My strong imagination sees a crown Dropping upon thy head.

Will you grant with me That Ferdinand is drown'd?

SEBASTIAN

He's gone.

ANTONIO

Then, tell me,

Who's the next heir of Naples?

SEBASTIAN

Claribel.

ANTONIO

She that is queen of Tunis; she that dwells

Ten leagues beyond man's life.

SEBASTIAN

'Tis true, my brother's daughter's queen of Tunis; So is she heir of Naples; 'twixt which regions There is some space.

ANTONIO

Say, this were death

That now hath seized them.

O, that you bore

The mind that I do! what a sleep were this

For your advancement! Do you understand me?

SEBASTIAN

Methinks I do.

ANTONIO

And how does your content

Tender your own good fortune?

SEBASTIAN

I remember

You did supplant your brother Prospero.

ANTONIO

True:

And look how well my garments sit upon me.

SEBASTIAN

But, for your conscience?

ANTONIO

Ay, sir; where lies that?

Here lies your brother,

No better than the earth he lies upon,

SEBASTIAN

Thy case, dear friend,

Shall be my precedent; as thou got'st Milan,

I'll come by Naples. Draw thy sword: one stroke

Shall free thee from the tribute which thou payest;

And I the king shall love thee.

ANTONIO

Draw together;

And when I rear my hand, do you the like,

To fall it on Gonzalo.

Re-enter ARIEL, invisible

ARIEL

My master through his art foresees the danger That you, his friend, are in; and sends me forth--For else his project dies--to keep them living.

Sings in GONZALO's ear

While you here to snoring lie,

Open-eyed conspiracy

His time doth take.

If of life you keep a care

Shake off slumber, and beware:

Awake, awake

Coliban. 10 1 Enter CALIBAN with a burden of wood. A noise of thunder heard

CALIBAN

All the infections that the sun sucks up From bogs, fens, flats, on Prosper fall and make him By inch-meal a disease! His spirits hear me And yet I needs must curse. Sometime like apes that mow and chatter at me And after bite me, then like hedgehogs which Lie tumbling in my barefoot way and mount Their pricks at my footfall; sometime am I All wound with adders who with cloven tongues Do hiss me into madness.

Enter TRINCULO

Lo, now, lo!

Here comes a spirit of his, and to torment me For bringing wood in slowly. I'll fall flat; Perchance he will not mind me.

TRINCULO

Here's neither bush nor shrub, to bear off any weather at all, and another storm brewing; If it should thunder as it did before, I know not where to hide my head: youd same cloud cannot choose but fall by pailfuls. What have we here? a man or a fish? dead or alive? A fish: he smells like a fish; a very ancient and fishlike smell; A strange fish! Legged like a man and his fins like arms! This is no fish, but an islander, that hath lately suffered by a thunderbolt.

Thunder

Alas, the storm is come again! my best way is to creep under his gaberdine; there is no other shelter hereabouts: misery acquaints a man with strange bed-fellows. I will here shroud till the dregs of the storm be past.

Enter STEPHANO, singing: a bottle in his hand

STEPHANO

I shall no more to sea, to sea, Here shall I die ashore--

Caliban,
Stephono, 10

KRinculo

heaved o'erboard, by this bottle; which I made of the bark of a tree with mine own hands since I was cast ashore

CALIBAN

I'll swear upon that bottle to be thy true subject; for the liquor is not earthly.

STEPHANO

Here; swear then how thou escapedst.

TRINCULO

Swum ashore. man, like a duck: I can swim like a duck, I'll be sworn.

STEPHANO

Here, kiss the book. Though thou canst swim like a duck, thou art made like a goose.

TRINCULO

O Stephano. hast any more of this?

STEPHANO

The whole butt, man: my cellar is in a rock by the sea-side where my wine is hid. How now, moon-calf!

CALIBAN

Hast thou not dropp'd from heaven?

STEPHANO

Out o' the moon, I do assure thee: I was the man i' the moon when time was.

CALIBAN

I have seen thee in her and I do adore thee.

STEPHANO

Come, swear to that; kiss the book.

TRINCULO

By this good light, this is a very shallow monster! I afeard of him! A very weak monster! The man i' the moon! A most poor credulous monster!

CALIBAN

I'll show thee every fertile inch o' th' island; And I will kiss thy foot: I prithee, be my god.

TRINCULO

By this light, a most perfidious and drunken

monster!

CALIBAN

I'll kiss thy foot; I'll swear myself thy subject.

STEPHANO

Come on then; down, and swear.

TRINCULO

I shall laugh myself to death at this puppy-headed monster. A most scurvy monster!

STEPHANO

Come, kiss.

TRINCULO

But that the poor monster's in drink: an abominable monster!

CALIBAN

I'll show thee the best springs; I'll pluck thee berries;

I'll fish for thee and get thee wood enough.

A plague upon the tyrant that I serve!

I'll bear him no more sticks, but follow thee,

Thou wondrous man.

TRINCULO

A most ridiculous monster, to make a wonder of a Poor drunkard!

CALIBAN

I prithee, let me bring thee where crabs grow; And I with my long nails will dig thee pignuts; . Wilt thou go with me?

STEPHANO

I prithee now, lead the way without any more talking. Trinculo, the king and all our company else being drowned, we will inherit here: here; bear my bottle: fellow Trinculo, we'll fill him by and by again.

CALIBAN

[Sings drunkenly]

Farewell master; farewell, farewell!

TRINCULO

A howling monster: a drunken monster!

CALIBAN

'Ban, 'Ban, Cacaliban

Has a new master: get a new man.

Freedom, hey-day! hey-day, freedom! freedom,

hey-day, freedom!

STEPHANO

O brave monster! Lead the way.

Exeunt

ACT III

SCENE I. Before PROSPERO'S Cell.

Enter FERDINAND, bearing a log

FERDINAND

This my mean task

Would be as heavy to me as odious, but

The mistress which I serve quickers what's dead

And makes my labours pleasures: O, she is
Ten times more gentle than her father's crabbed,
And he's composed of harshness. I must remove
Some thousands of these logs and pile them up.
My sweet mistress weeps when she sees me work.

Enter MIRANDA; and PROSPERO at a distance, unseen

Seron ond or your or you

MIRANDA

Alas, now, pray you, work not so hard. Pray, set it down and rest you. My father Is hard at study; pray now, rest yourself; He's safe for these three hours.

FERDINAND

O most dear mistress, The sun will set before I shall discharge What I must strive to do.

MIRANDA

If you'll sit down, I'll bear your logs the while: pray, give me that; I'll carry it to the pile.

FERDINAND

No, precious creature; I had rather crack my sinews, break my back, Than you should such dishonour undergo, While I sit lazy by.

MIRANDA

You look wearily.

FERDINAND

No, noble mistress; 'tis fresh morning with me When you are by at night. What is your name?

MIRANDA

Miranda.--O my father, I have broke your hest to say so!

FERDINAND

Admired Miranda!

Indeed the top of admiration! O you, So perfect and so peerless, are created Of every creature's best!

MIRANDA

I would not wish Any companion in the world but you, Nor can imagination form a shape, Besides yourself, to like of. But I prattle Something too wildly and my father's precepts I therein do forget.

FERDINAND

I am in my condition

A prince, Miranda; I do think, a king;

The very instant that I saw you, did

My heart fly to your service.

MIRANDA

Do you love me?

FERDINAND

O heaven, O earth, bear witness to this sound

And crown what I profess with kind event

If I speak true!

I beyond all limit of what else i' the world

Do love, prize, honour you.

MIRANDA

I am a fool

To weep at what I am glad of.

PROSPERO

Fair encounter

Of two most rare affections! Heavens rain grace

On that which breeds between 'em!

FERDINAND

Wherefore weep you?

MIRANDA

At mine unworthiness that dare not offer

What I desire to give.

I am your wife, if you will marry me;

If not, I'll die your maid: to be your fellow

You may deny me; but I'll be your servant,

Whether you will or no.

FERDINAND

My mistress, dearest;

And I thus humble ever.

MIRANDA

My husband, then?

FERDINAND

Ay, with a heart as willing

As bondage e'er of freedom: here's my hand.

MIRANDA

And mine, with my heart in't; and now farewell

Till half an hour hence.

FERDINAND

A thousand thousand!

Exeunt FERDINAND and MIRANDA severally

PROSPERO

Look thou be true; do not give dalliance Too much the rein: the strongest oaths are straw To the fire i' the blood: be more abstemious, Or else, good night your vow!

FERDINAND

I warrant you\sir;

The white cold virgin snow upon my heart Abates the ardour of my liver.

PROSPERO

Well.

Now come, my Ariel! Appear and pertly

No tongue! all eyes be silent.

Soft music

Enter IRIS

IRIS

Ceres, most bounteous lady, thy rich leas Of wheat, rye, barley, vetches, oats and pease; Thy turfy mountains, where live nibbling sheep, And flat meads thatch'd with stover, them to keep; Thy banks with pioned and twilled brims, Which spongy April at thy hest betrims, To make cold nymphs chaste crowns; and thy broom -groves, Whose shadow the dismissed bachelor loves, Being lass-lorn: thy pole-clipt vineyard; And thy sea-marge, sterile and rocky-hard, Where thou thyself dost air;--the queen o' the sky, Whose watery arch and messenger am I, Bids thee leave these, and with her sovereign grace, Here on this grass-plot, in this very place, To come and sport: her peacocks fly amain: Approach, rich Ceres, her to entertain. Enter CERES

CERES

Hail, many-colour'd messenger, that ne'er Dost disobey the wife of Jupiter; Who with thy saffron wings upon my flowers Diffusest honey-drops, refreshing showers, And with each end of thy blue bow dost crown My bosky acres and my unshrubb'd down, Rich scarf to my proud earth; why hath thy queen Summon'd me hither, to this short-grass'd green?

IRIS



Aside to ARIEL

My Ariel, chick,

That is thy charge: then to the elements

Be free, and fare thou well!

Exeunt

EPILOGUE SPOKEN BY PROSPERO

Now my charms are all o'erthrown, And what strength I have's mine own, Which is most faint: now, 'tis true, I must be here confined by you, Or sent to Naples. Let me not, Since I have my dukedom got And pardon'd the deceiver, dwell In this bare island by your spell; But release me from my bands With the help of your good hands: Gentle breath of yours my sails Must fill, or else my project fails, Which was to please. Now I want Spirits to enforce, art to enchant, And my ending is despair, Unless I be relieved by prayer, Which pierces so that it assaults Mercy itself and frees all faults. As you from crimes would pardon'd be, Let your indulgence set me free.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

ALONSO

109 line

King of Naples, he allowed Antonio to usurp the title of Duke of Milan, and presumes Prospero to have died at sea.

SEBASTIAN

120 lines

Brother of Alonso, lazy and suggestible, he is persuaded by Antonio to try to kill Alonso and become King of Naples.

PROSPERO

0

674 lines

The rightful Duke of Milan, put to sea in a tiny boat by his brother Antonio, he makes good use of his magic on the island where he and Miranda are shipwrecked; he grabs the chance to avenge his humiliation.



Prospero (Derek Jacobi) is a powerful magician who in the end gives up magic to regain his dukedom.

ANTONIO

148 lines

Usurper of Prospero's title as Duke of Milan, he hopes Sebastian will follow his example by killing his own brother, Alonso.

FERDINAND

140 lines

Son of Alonso and Prince of Naples, he falls in love with Prospero's daughter, Miranda, whom he gallantly woos while he is Prospero's prisoner; Prospero then approves their match.

GONZALO

161 lines

Honest old councillor in the court of King Alonso, he allowed Prospero to take his books into exile; Prospero remembers him with affection and does not take revenge on him.

ADRIAN AND FRANCISCO

12; 11 lines

Lords of Alonso's court.

CALIBAN

€ W

175 lines

Savage, deformed, but eloquent slave, he is the son of the dead witch Sycorax; taught to speak by Miranda, he is made captive on the island by Prospero after he attempts to rape the girl, but finds a new master in Alonso's alcoholic butler, Stephano.

TRINCULO

W.

105 lines

Witty jester, he forms a clown-like trio with Caliban and Stephano to overthrow Prospero.

STEPHANO

NA.

163 lines

Alonso's butler, he introduces Caliban to the pleasures and pitfalls of liquor.

MIRANDA

142 lines

Daughter of Prospero, she falls in love with Ferdinand; she epitomizes Shakespearean Romantic heroines when she comments, "How beauteous mankind is!"



Toyah Wilcox (Miranda) and David Meyer (Ferdinand) fall in love in Derek Jarman's highly stylized movie version of 1980.

ARIEL

194 lines

Spirit once enslaved to Caliban's late mother, the "foul witch Sycorax," he is subsequently liberated by Prospero and becomes the "industrious servant" of his new master; he wins his freedom by helping Prospero to humiliate his enemies.

Caliban (Robert Glenister) bitterly resents being a servant to Prospero.

IRIS, CERES AND JUNO

41; 24; 7 lines

They are characters in a masque, played by Ariel and other spirits.

OTHER PLAYERS

Master of a ship,
Boatswain, Mariners,
Nymphs, Reapers and
other Spirits in the
service of Prospero.

