

# Y8– The Tempest – English Knowledge Organiser

## Expectations and content

### **What is this unit about and why do we teach it?**

Shakespeare's final play 'The Tempest' teaches us the genre of a romantic comedy. We also explore a deeper criticism of Elizabethan and Jacobean society. A ship leaves Tunis to return home to Naples however, they encounter a Tempest- a storm at sea. The survivors are washed ashore a (mostly) deserted island.

### **Key Vocabulary taught:**

- Chronological structure
- Colonialism
- Magic
- Control
- Forgiveness
- Violence
- Supernatural

### **Key terminology taught:**

- Analytical paragraph
- Context
- Syllables
- Rhyme
- Soliloquy
- Aside
- Masque
- Simile
- Metaphor
- Imagery
- interpretation

## If your child needs support

### **Suggested activities to help:**

- Watch the animated tales version of the play to understand the plot:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAZKlpWGN\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAZKlpWGN_Q)
- Discuss what 'We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep' could mean.
- Make a list of all the characters in the play and write a list of ambitious adjectives you could use to describe them.
- If you are struggling with the original Shakespearean language in the play you can access a modern version of the play here:  
[https://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/shakespeare/tempest/page\\_2/](https://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/shakespeare/tempest/page_2/)
- Use the Mind Map to revise and memorise the meanings of some of the key terminology taught.
- Make Cornell Notes on the characters and key themes.

## If your child needs extension

### **Questions to discuss with your child:**

- How is the theme of forgiveness presented in the play?
  - What do we learn about the character, Caliban? Why is he presented in such a violent and repulsive way?
- 'Thou poisonous slave, got by the devil himself'
- Could Prospero's need for revenge have led to a tragedy?

### **Challenging activities to complete:**

- Research the Renaissance Movement.
- Research the advances of staging and production in the Theatre during the Jacobean Era.

### **Suggested further reading:**

- **Robinson Crusoe**- Daniel Defoe
- **Moby Dick**- Herman Melville
- **The Old Man and the Sea**- Ernest Hemmingway