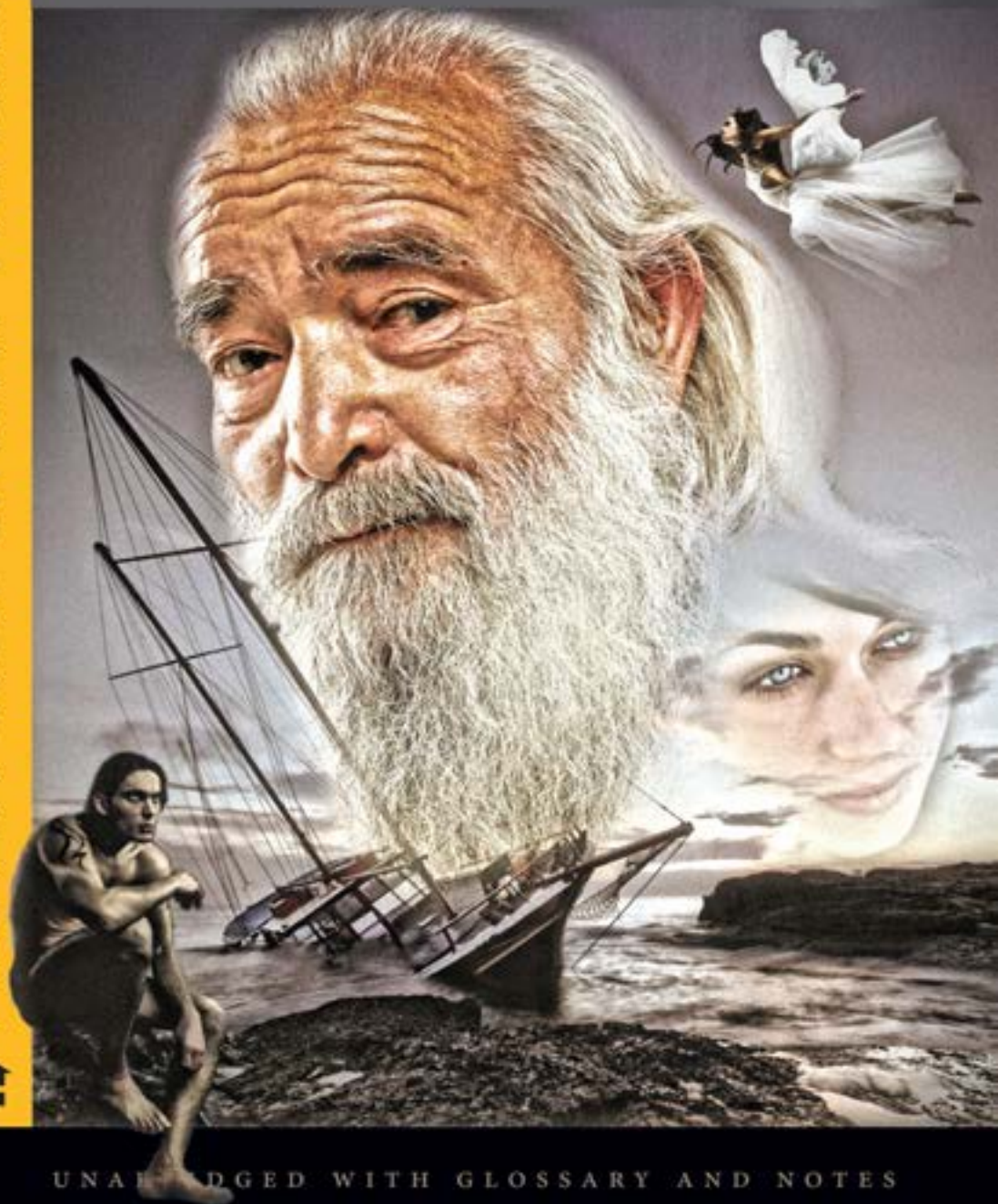


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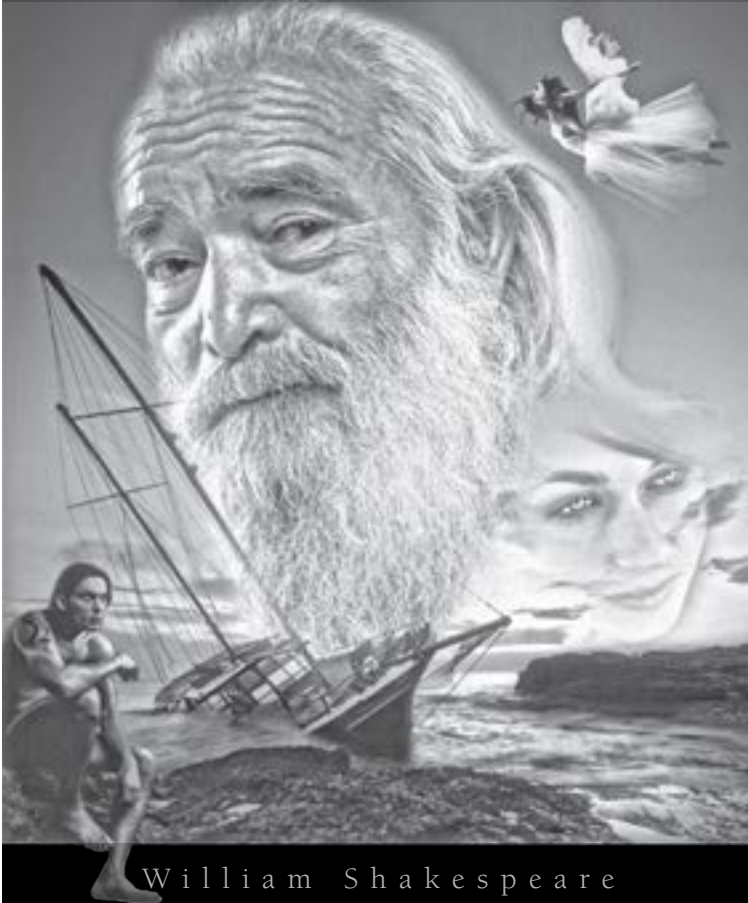
THE TEMPEST

by William Shakespeare



UNABRIDGED WITH GLOSSARY AND NOTES

THE TEMPEST



William Shakespeare



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STRATEGIES

Strategies for Understanding Shakespeare's Language

1. When reading verse, note the appropriate phrasing and intonation.

DO NOT PAUSE AT THE END OF A LINE unless there is a mark of punctuation. Shakespearean verse has a rhythm of its own, and once a reader gets used to it, the rhythm becomes very natural to speak in and read. Beginning readers often find it helpful to read a short pause at a comma and a long pause for a period, colon, semicolon, dash, or question mark.

Here's an example from *The Merchant of Venice*, Act IV, Scene i:

The quality of mercy is not strain'd, (*short pause*)
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath: (*long pause*) it is twice blest; (*long pause*)
It blesseth him that gives, (*short pause*) and him that takes; (*long pause*)
'Tis mightiest in the mighties; (*long pause*) it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown; (*long pause*)

2. Read from punctuation mark to punctuation mark for meaning.

In addition to helping you read aloud, punctuation marks define units of thought. Try to understand each unit as you read, keeping in mind that periods, colons, semicolons, and question marks signal the end of a thought.

Here's an example from *The Taming of the Shrew*: Act I, Scene i:

LUC. Tranio, I saw her coral lips to move,
And with her breath she did perfume the air;
Sacred, and sweet, was all I saw in her.
TRA. Nay, then, 'tis time to stir him from his
trance.
I pray, awake, sir: if you love the maid,
Bend thoughts and wits to achieve her.

THE TEMPEST

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

ALONSO, King of Naples
FERDINAND, son to the King of Naples
SEBASTIAN, his brother
PROSPERO, the rightful Duke of Milan
ANTONIO, his brother, the usurping Duke of Milan
GONZALO, an honest old counsellor
ADRIAN and FRANCISCO, lords
STEPHANO, Alonso's drunken butler
TRINCULO, a jester
MASTER of a ship
BOATSWAIN
MARINERS
CALIBAN, a savage and deformed slave
MIRANDA, daughter to Prospero
ARIEL, an airy spirit and Prospero's attendant
IRIS
CERES
JUNO
NYMPHS
REAPERS

} spirits

SCENE: *On a ship at sea; afterwards on an island.*

ACT I

T H E T E M P E S T

ACT I

SCENE I

On a ship at sea. A tempestuous noise of thunder and lightning heard.

[Enter a Master and a Boatswain]

MASTER: Boatswain!

BOATS: Here, Master. What cheer?

MASTER: Good,¹ speak to the mariners. Fall to't, yarely,² or we run ourselves aground. Bestir, bestir.³ *[Exit]*

[Enter Mariners]

- 5 **BOATS:** Heigh, my hearts!⁴ Cheerly, cheerly, my hearts! Yare, yare! Take in the topsail.[†] Tend⁵ to the Master's whistle! Blow, till thou burst thy wind, if room enough![†]

[Enter Alonso, Sebastian, Antonio, Ferdinand, Gonzalo, and others]

ALONSO: Good Boatswain, have care. Where's the Master?

[To the Mariners] Play the men!⁶

BOATS: I pray now, keep below.

- 10 **ANTONIO:** Where is the Master, Boatswain?

BOATS: Do you not hear him? You mar our labour. Keep your cabins: you do assist the storm.

GONZ: Nay, good,⁷ be patient.

- 15 **BOATS:** When the sea is. Hence! What cares these roarers for the name of the king?[†] To cabin: silence! Trouble us not.

GONZ: Good, yet remember whom thou has aboard.

BOATS: None that I more love than myself. You are a counsellor;[†] if you can command these elements to silence, and work

[†]Terms marked in the text with (†) can be looked up in the Glossary for additional information.

¹Good, you're here.

²right away, quickly

³get up, arise

⁴hearties; mates

⁵Listen; Pay attention

⁶Act like men!

⁷Good man

⁸handle

20 the peace of the present, we will not hand⁸ a rope more;
use your authority. If you cannot, give thanks you have
lived so long, and make yourself ready in your cabin for
the mischance of the hour, if it so hap. [*To the Mariners*]
Cheerly, good hearts! [*To Gonzalo*] Out of our way, I say!

Exit

GONZ: I have great comfort from this fellow. Methinks he hath
25 no drowning mark upon him; his complexion is perfect
gallows.[†] Stand fast, good Fate, to his hanging. Make
the rope of his destiny our cable, for our own doth little
advantage.^{†9} If he be not born to be hanged, our case is
miserable. *Exeunt*

⁹has little use*[Enter Boatswain]*

30 **BOATS:** Down with the topmast![†] Yare! Lower, lower! Bring
her to try with main-course![†] [*A cry within*] A plague upon
this howling! They¹⁰ are louder than the weather or our
office.¹¹

¹⁰the other pas-
sengers¹¹work*[Enter Sebastian, Antonio, and Gonzalo]*¹²up; over (to the
weather)

Yet again! What do you here? Shall we give o'er¹² and
35 drown? Have you a mind to sink?

SEBAST: A pox o' your throat, you bawling, blasphemous,
incharitable dog!

BOATS: Work you, then.

¹³coward; dog

ANTONIO: Hang, cur,¹³ hang, you whoreson, insolent noise-
40 maker! We are less afraid to be drowned
than thou art.

¹⁴even if

GONZ: I'll warrant him for drowning,[†] though¹⁴ the ship
were no stronger than a nutshell and as leaky as an
unstanched¹⁵ wench.

¹⁵freely flowing;
unrestrained;
promiscuous

45 **BOATS:** Lay her a-hold, a-hold! Set her two courses![†] Off to sea
again; lay her off![†]

[Enter Mariners wet]

MARINERS: All lost! To prayers, to prayers! All lost!

[Exeunt Mariners]

BOATS: What, must our mouths be cold?[†]

GONZ: The king and prince at prayers! Let's assist them,
50 For our case is theirs.

SEBAST: I'm out of patience.

ANTONIO: We are merely¹⁶ cheated of our lives by drunkards.
This wide-chopped¹⁷ rascal—would thou mightst lie
drowning

55 The washing of ten tides![†]

GONZ: He'll be hanged yet,
Though every drop of water swear against it,
And gape at wid'st to glut¹⁸ him.

[A confused noise within]

MARINERS: 'Mercy on us!'—'We split, we split!'—'Farewell, my
60 wife and children!'—'Farewell, brother!'—'We split, we split,
we split!'
[Exit Boatswain]

ANTONIO: Let's all sink wi'th' King,

SEBAST: Let's take leave of him. [Exeunt Antonio and Sebastian]

GONZ: Now would I give a thousand furlongs of sea for an acre of
65 barren ground—long heath, brown furze, anything.[‡] The wills
above be done, but I would fain die a dry death.

[Exeunt]

SCENE II

The Island. Before Prospero's cell.

[Enter Prospero and Miranda]

MIRAN: If by your art,¹ my dearest father, you have
Put the wild waters in this roar, allay them.
The sky, it seems, would pour down stinking pitch,[‡]
But that the sea, mounting to th' welkin's² cheek,
5 Dashes the fire out. O, I have suffered
With those that I saw suffer! A brave³ vessel,
Who had, no doubt, some noble creature in her,
Dashed all to pieces! O, the cry did knock
Against my very heart! Poor souls, they perished.
10 Had I been any god of power, I would
Have sunk the sea within the earth, or ere⁴
It should the good ship so have swallowed and
The fraughting souls⁵ within her.

PROSP: Be collected.

15 No more amazement.⁶ Tell your piteous⁷ heart
There's no harm done.

MIRAN: O, woe the day!

¹⁶completely;
utterly

¹⁷big mouthed

¹⁸widest so as to
swallow

¹magic powers

²sky's

³splendid; noble

⁴before

⁵difficulty of storing
the cargo

⁶overwhelming
fear, horror

⁷pitying

Glossary

Act I: Scene I

- “Take in the topsail.”** – Taking in the topsail reduces the sail’s surface area and decreases the wind’s ability to push the ship closer to the island.
- “Blow...room enough!”** – There are two possibilities in interpreting this use of direct address: One is that the Boatswain is speaking directly to the storm, telling it to be as forceful as it can, so long as there is ample room for the ship to maneuver and take the powerful blows of the storm without hitting any reefs or rocks. The other is that the Boatswain is simply telling a mariner to blow on the whistle as loudly as possible.
- “What cares...name of king?”** – *Roarers* is a term the Boatswain uses in reference to the wind and to the rough, stormy waves. It is an example of personification.
- counsellor** – Gonzalo is a member of the king’s council, but this title also refers to someone who persuades or advises.
- “...no drowning mark...perfect gallows.”** – A birthmark in a specific position was believed to predict a person’s death through drowning. A well-known proverb in Shakespeare’s time was, similar to, “He that is born to be hanged will never be drowned.”
- “Make the rope...little advantage.”** – Their anchor is of little help in a fierce thunderstorm, so they might as well use it to hang the Boatswain, which would prevent everyone else from drowning
- “Down...topmast!”** – Lowering the topmast makes the ship more stable.
- “Bring her...main-course.”** – The men want to attempt sailing the ship at an angle into the wind. With this technique, they are hoping that the ship will be pushed away from the island.
- “I’ll warrant...drowning...”** – Gonzalo guarantees the Boatswain will not drown.
- “Set her two courses!”** – This command refers to a maneuver that the Boatswain hopes will move the ship into the open ocean.
- “...lay her off!”** – “...get the ship out to sea!”
- “...must our mouths be cold?”** – A well-known proverb, “to be cold in the mouth,” meant to be dead; however, other critics interpret the lines to suggest that the mariners warm their cold mouths with liquor.
- “The washing of ten tides!”** – Antonio is alluding to and exaggerating the punishment for pirates, which was to be hanged during low tide and left until three tides had passed.
- “...long heath,...furze anything.”** – Gonzalo is referring to various shrubs that are all hardy enough to flourish even in poor soil. He would rather be on land, even land barely able to sustain life, than at sea.

Vocabulary

Act I: Scene I

blasphemous – verbally abusive; insulting to God

cur – a coward; an undesirable dog (that insult works in conjunction with Sebastian's previous insult when he refers to the Boatswain as an "incharitable dog.")

furlongs – measures of distance; a *furlong* is one-eighth of a mile

insolent – arrogant

mar – to damage; spoil

pox – a disease (usually smallpox)

whoreson – a son of a whore

Act I: Scene II

advocate – a supporter

allay – to reduce, alleviate

apparition – a supernatural appearance

auspicious – prosperous

besiege – to surround

bowsprit – a wooden pole that extends forward from the front of a ship that sails are secured to

brine – seawater; the ocean

brine-pits – salt springs

chide – to scold, reprimand

cloven – split

confer – to give, bestow

coronet – a crown of lesser value, showing the wearer's inferiority to the king

correspondent – obedient, respectful, compliant

direful – devastating, tragic

fortitude – mental strength that provides courage to endure adversity

gallant – a well-dressed, dignified man; a fine gentleman

gape – to open

hatches – small doors within the ship

homage – acknowledgement of loyalty

ignoble – not one of nobility; common

inveterate – firmly, officially

knell – the sound of a bell rung for a funeral

levied – gathered

malice – a desire to harm others; here the form of direct address shows Caliban's true nature.

malignant – evil, spiteful

manacle – to restrain; chain

Neapolitan – a native or one who lives in Naples