



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS AND KEY THEMES

Introduction

"O, wonder!
How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world,
That has such people in't!"

— Miranda, *The Tempest*, Act 5, scene 1

The best way to capture someone's imagination is to take them on a journey of discovery. *The Tempest* is filled with magic and illusion to entice and delight the senses. However, Shakespeare also provides us with opportunities to explore some of the darker and more ambiguous themes in the play, such as loyalty, betrayal and revenge, freedom versus imprisonment and the impact of colonialism, exploitation and servitude. *The Tempest* is one of Shakespeare's most popular plays: it offers pageantry on a grand scale, but more importantly its themes are universal and still resonate with our 21st-century audience. Students will find many moments in the play that will pique their interest and generate much discussion and debate.

Content Advisory for Students

Some bawdy language

Curriculum Connections

Grades 4 and up

- **Global Competencies:**
 - Creativity
 - Learning to Learn/Self-Awareness
 - Communication
 - Collaboration
 - Critical Thinking
- **Grades 4–12:**
 - Language/English (listening to understand, speaking to communicate, reading for meaning)
 - Drama, Music, Visual Art
 - Health and PE (interpersonal skills, conflict resolution, harassment, bullying, leadership)
- **Grades 4–6:**

- Social Studies (heritage and identity, people and environments)
- **Grades 7–8:**
 - History (colonialism: events and their consequences)
- **Grade 10:**
 - Civics [Politics] (civic issues, democratic values)
- **Grade 11:**
 - Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology (socialization)
 - Gender Studies (power relations, sex and gender)
 - Equity, Diversity and Social Justice (the social construction of identity, power and relations)
- **Grades 11–12:**
 - Philosophy (metaphysics, ethics, epistemology, aesthetics)
- **Grade 12:**
 - Equity and Social Justice: From Theory to Practice (approaches and perspectives, power relations, historical and contemporary issues)
 - World History Since the Fifteenth Century (social, economic and political context)
 - Adventures in World History (society and community, politics and conflict)
 - Challenge and Change (cause and effect, social deviance, global inequalities, exploitation)

Key Themes

- Nature vs. nurture
- Colonization
- Exploration
- Supernatural
- Usurpation and treachery
- Revenge, forgiveness and reconciliation
- Freedom vs. imprisonment and powerlessness
- Change and transformation
- Power, control and justice
- Loss and restoration
- Betrayal
- Magic, illusion and reality
- Men and monsters
- Masters and servants
- Water and drowning
- Sounds and music
- Water and the sea
- Earth and air
- Costume and theatre