

Key Stage 3 Shakespeare

The Tempest

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Act 1 scene 2, lines 189–321

The Tempest is a play

We must remember that *The Tempest* is a play to be performed by actors in front of an audience, most of whom would only see the play once. They cannot revisit a scene they do not understand (unless they pay to see the play again). It is up to the actors and director to make sure they do understand it.

Drama is about conflict

Examples of conflict in *The Tempest* result from:

- **Individuals** – Prospero and Caliban, Prospero and Antonio, even Prospero and Ariel
- **Ambition** – Caliban, Antonio
- **Different groups** – those on the island (Prospero, Miranda, Ariel, Caliban) versus outsiders (Alonso, Sebastian)
- **Generations** (Prospero clashes with his daughter)

Activity

As you read the play make a list of human weaknesses which make the characters more interesting.

For example: Miranda is bored with her father's story in Act 1 scene 2.

Conflict also emerges because of the **themes** of the play. One theme is the conflict between **civilisation and nature**.

Activity

Discuss the following issues

- Is it right for educated, 'civilised' people to try to make people from other cultures behave like them?
- Is it right for educated and 'civilised' people to try to change people they think are savage?
- What do we mean by the word 'civilised'?

Staging Act 1 scene 2, lines 189–321

When reading the play you need to imagine what it would look like on stage. Use the following diagram to help you understand the staging.

Up Stage right	Up centre stage	Up Stage left
Centre stage right	Centre stage	Centre stage left
Down stage right	Down centre stage	Down Stage left

Use the diagram above to plan where the actors would stand. Then look back at the text. On one side of the table below, you have the words, on the other the actions.

Action	<u>Underlined lines</u> are where the movement happens
Ariel enters up stage right	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 curled clouds. To thy strong bidding task Ariel and all his quality.
Runs to Prospero who is centre stage and bows	PROSPERO Hast thou, spirit, Performed to point the tempest that I bade thee?
Prospero moves down stage centre	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'd divide, And burn in many places.
Ariel follows and stands at his shoulder	On the <u>topmast</u> , The yards and bowsprit would I flame distinctly,
Ariel runs up stage left	<u>Then meet</u> 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 Seemed to besiege, and make his bold waves tremble
Runs down stage right	<u>Yea, his dread trident shake.</u>
Comes back to Prospero down stage centre	PROSPERO My brave spirit! Who was so firm, so constant, that this coil Would not infect his reason?