

THE HEAVY RAIN

**A comedy
for Adolescents and Adults**

**WORKPACK
LEVEL B1+ to C1**



Characters

Prospero, former King of Milan and now turned into a mighty enchanter

Miranda, his daughter

Antonio, his brother (who had usurped Prospero's throne)

Ferdinand, Alonso's son (Alonso is the king of Naples who had plotted with Antonio)*

Stephano, a butler*

Trinculo a jester*

Ariel, an airy spirit

Sycorax, a witch*

Caliban, a monster and Sycorax's son.

*Played by audience members

Plot Outline

Prospero, former **King of Naples** was betrayed by his brother **Antonio** in order to usurp his title and **abandoned on a raft, into the sea**, together with his **daughter Miranda**.

Now, twelve years have passed, and Prospero, who landed in **an island full of magical creatures**, has become a mighty enchanter himself. He is now conjuring a huge **Tempest that will cause a mayor shipwreck** and, looking for revenge, he'll bring his deceitful brother (together with some hilarious servants and young **Ferdinand** - the King of Naples' son) to his very own Island.

Extended Synopsis

A boat is struck by a violent sea-storm somewhere in the Mediterranean.

Prospero and his young daughter Miranda look on from the safety of a nearby island. Miranda, fearing that the storm has been created by her father's magical powers, is upset. Prospero reassures her that all on board are safe and goes on to tell the story of how they arrived on the island some 12 years before. He tells her that he **used to be the King of Milan and was driven from power by his wicked brother Antonio**.

Now, as luck would have it, all those who had conspired against Prospero are on board the struggling boat, and soon they would all end up on the sea shore.

Then, we meet **Ariel – a spirit of the air, and a loyal servant to Prospero**, who will be free from his service once his master's final plans are complete.

The only other inhabitants of the island are **Caliban**, the son of a "foul witch" **Sycorax**, and the witch herself, who lives in exile. They **believe that the island should belong to them and resent Prospero**.

Ariel leads Ferdinand, the Prince of Naples, first. When **Ferdinand meets Miranda, the couple falls instantly in love** at first sight.

In another part of the island the second group of survivors appears: **Trinculo, (The King of Naples' jester) and Stephano, (The King of Naples' butler)**. They have survived by **floating to shore on a barrel of wine** and have drunk their way through it. They meet **Caliban, who persuades them to kill Prospero and seize control of the island**.

Elsewhere, **Antonio** (Prospero's brother – and the current King of Milan) arrives.

Prospero's master plan nears its climax, and he vows that upon its completion he will abandon his magic arts and he will set his loyal servant Ariel free.



ACTIVITIES

For teachers:

This workpack is divided into different levels, considering learners' age and level of language acquired.

As you may notice, the same play may cater for an ample age range. This is due to an important innovation meant to suit different students' needs and interests.

This means that while different age groups may be viewing the same play the various pre and post language activities in the workpack attend to a different level.

This play is suitable for students whose level of English is equivalent to

**B1+ to C1 on the
Common European Framework
of Reference for Languages.**

The background of the entire page is a light, off-white color. Overlaid on this background are several dark grey silhouettes of palm trees. The trees vary in height and are scattered across the frame, with some appearing as full trees and others as just the fronds. The overall effect is a tropical, minimalist aesthetic.

ALL LEVELS

BEFORE GOING TO
THE THEATRE

(in addition to reviewing plot and characters)

Activity 1 - Start getting used to the slang...

(Optional: make it a game: join a team and try to guess the meaning, then do the research in class and find who the winning team is!)

In the left column you can see a collection of phrases and sayings found in Shakespeare's writings and still in use today. Do some research and find out and write each meaning in the right column.

IN STITCHES

IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE

LIE LOW

LOVE IS BLIND

MAKE YOUR HAND STAND ON END

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

NIGHT OWL

SEND SOMEONE PACKING

THE GAME IS UP

UP IN ARMS

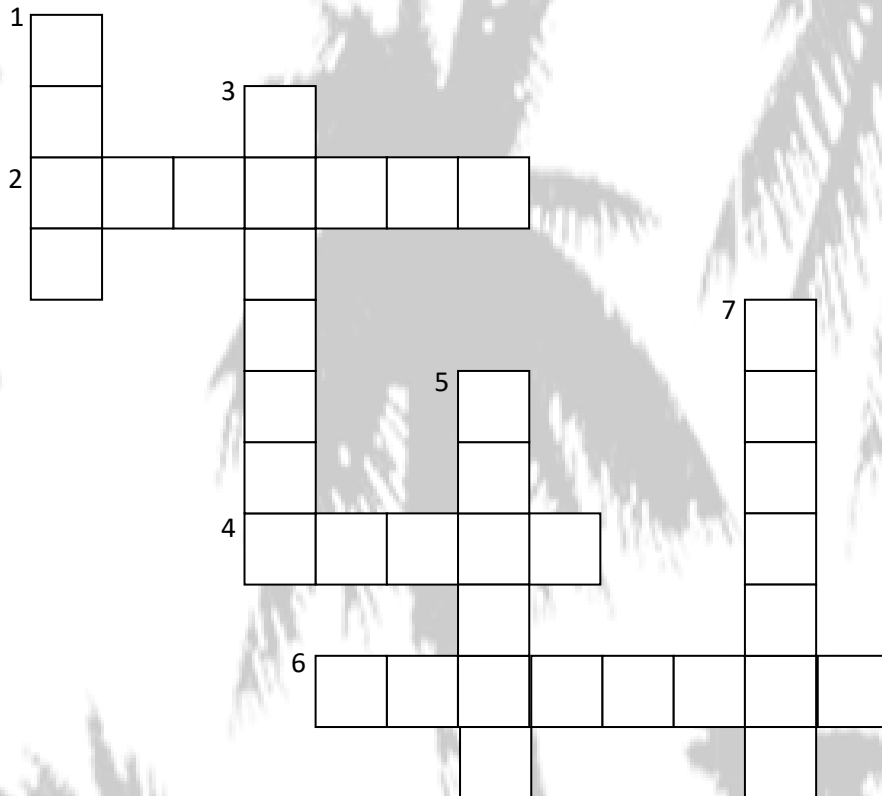
VANISH INTO THIN AIR

WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE

--

Activity 2 – Shakespearean Magical Characters.

Do some research and solve this crossword



- 1- a clever, mischievous jester to the King of fairies (AMND)
- 2- A half human, son of a witch, who inhabited an island before humans arrived on it due to a shipwreck. (TT)
- 3- the Queen of fairies (AMND)
- 4- spirit bound to serve a magician who rescued him from the tree in which he was imprisoned by a witch (TT)
- 5- the King of fairies (AMND)
- 6- A duke who has learned sorcery from books, and uses it while on an island to protect his daughter and control the other characters (TT)
- 7- (the weird_____) are three prophets who hail a the general, and predict his ascent to kingship (M)

AMND- A Midsummer Night's Dream

TT- The Tempest

M- Macbeth

ACTIVITY 3

Do some research and answer these questions prior to the play

1. Who wrote The Tempest?

2. In what year was it written?

3. Where is the play set?

4. Who was on the throne of England at the time?

5. What modes of transport did they use at the time?

Now, find basic information about the main characters:

6. Where is Prospero originally from?

7. Who is Prospero's brother?

8. Who is Prospero's daughter?

LEVEL 1

AFTER WATCHING
THE PLAY



Activity 4

CRITICAL THINKING

Answer the questions and give reasons

a) Did you like the play? Why?

b) Give your opinion about the costumes/puppets. Justify it.

c) Do you enjoy this kind of comedy? Why?

d) Do you prefer interactive or non-interactive plays? Why?

e) Which famous plays by Shakespeare did you know before this show? Why did you remember them?

USE OF ENGLISH

ACTIVITY 5:

Write an opposite adjective:

INSENSITIVE	
JEALOUS	
INOCENT	
COMPLIANT	
VINDICTIVE	
FOOLISH	

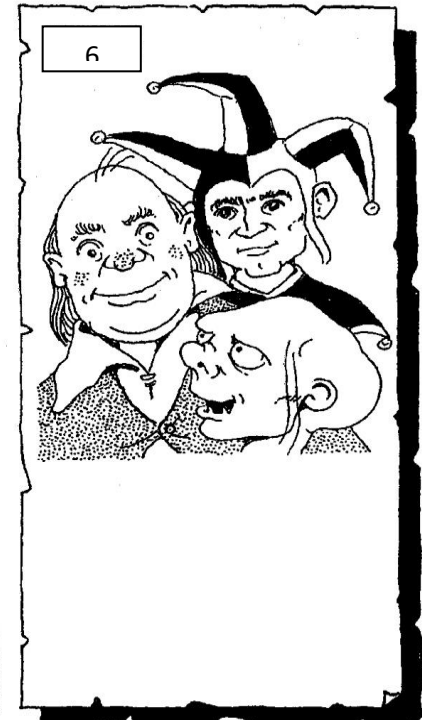
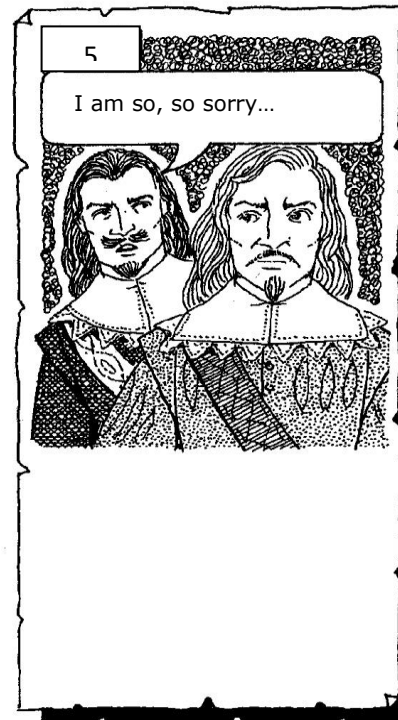
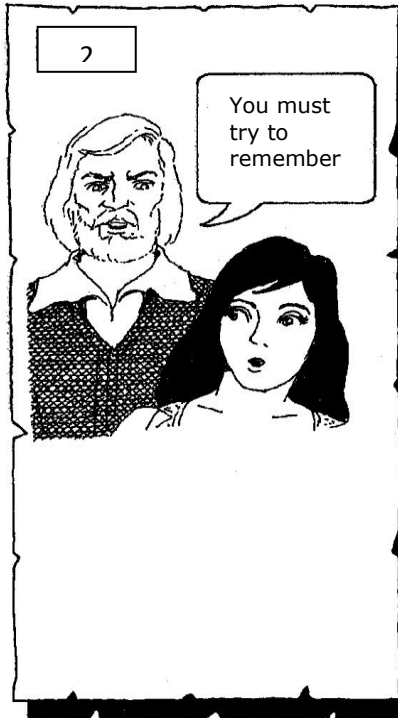
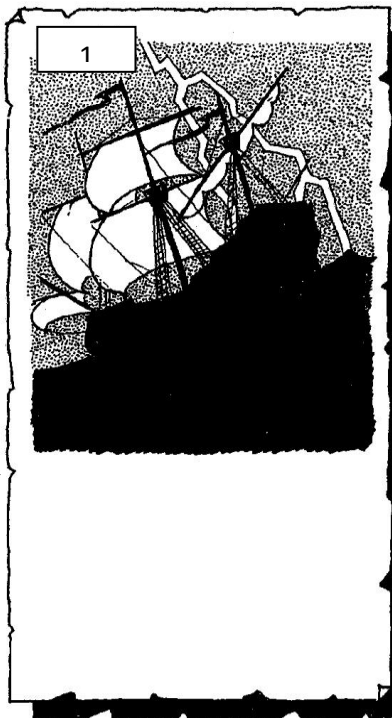
Match ONE of them to EACH of these characters you've just seen.
(you can either use the original adjective or its opposite)

PROSPERO _____
MIRANDA _____
ARIEL _____
ANTONIO _____
CALIBAN _____
TRINCULO _____

ACTIVITY 6:





Remember the play

Retell it using this storyboard and summarize each part in as few words as possible



ACTIVITY 6:

Complete the following Dramatis personae (list of characters in a dramatic work)

	<p>STEPHANO <i>A Drunken Butler</i> Shipwrecked with Trinculo, the two of them provide comedy to the play, and along with Caliban, they plot to kill Prospero so that Stephano can be King of the Island.</p> <p>He _____</p>
	<p>TRINCULO <i>A Jester</i> Providing comedy to the play, Trinculo and Stephano get drunk and plot to kill Prospero, which would make Stephano King of the Island.</p> <p>He _____</p>
	<p>CALIBAN <i>A Deformed Savage</i> Caliban is the son of the deceased witch Sycorax. Like Ariel, he is one of Prospero's servants, but he is unhappy with that situation because he believes that the island is his – and that Prospero stole it from him.</p> <p>He _____</p>
	<p>ARIEL <i>An Airy Spirit</i> Prospero controls a number of spirits, but Ariel is the most powerful – and mischievous. The witch Sycorax (Caliban's mother) trapped Ariel within a tree; from where he was rescued by Prospero. From that moment on, Prospero had complete control over Ariel.</p> <p>He _____</p>

ACTIVITY 8:

From Shakespeare to modern English

Read this text (parts of Prospero`s final soliloquy) and answer:

1-Now my charms are all o'erthrown,
And what strength I have's mine own,
Which is most faint.

2-Now, 'tis true,
I might be here confined by you,
Or sent to Naples.
Let me not,
Since I have my dukedom got

3- With the clap of your good hands.
Gentle breath of yours my sails
Must fill,

4- As you from crimes would pardoned be,
Let your indulgence set me free.

Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE?

1-My spells are now broken, and I only have my human power which is very weak

2-Please keep me here on this desert island with your magic spells. I am afraid to go to Naples

3-I ask for your applause in order to be able to leave

4- Forgive me, and set me free, just as you'd like to have your own sins forgiven,

The background of the page features a light gray silhouette of several palm trees against a white background. The trees are of varying heights and are scattered across the page, creating a tropical atmosphere.

ACTIVITY 9:

Comprehension questions

1. What is special about Prospero?

2. How has he got these magic powers?

3. Who does Miranda fall in love with?

4. What is the name of Prospero's spirit?

5. Whose mother is Sycorax?

6. What does Caliban say that Trinculo and Stephano should do to Prospero?

7. What is Trinculo's usual job in Naples?

8. What happens to Ferdinand and Miranda at the end of the play?

LEVEL 2

AFTER WATCHING THE PLAY

*(Some activities from level 1 can be also used
or adapted to this level)*



Activity 11

CRITICAL THINKING

As in Elizabethan times, we've used **Presentational Acting Style**: this means the actors were aware of the presence of an audience instead of completely ignoring them as part of their art. Movements and gestures were more exaggerated and dramatic than one might ordinarily expect in a naturalistic or realistic drama, and puns, humor and interaction directly connected characters to the audience watching.

Describe whether you prefer this style of acting or not, and why

Activity 12

Shakespearean English

Choose your favorite character in the play and write a short description of him/her. You SHOULD use AT LEAST 3 words or phrases invented by Shakespeare. Here are some:

Auspicious – favorable; promising success; a good omen.

Baseless – without a foundation; not based on fact.

Barefaced – shameless; without disguise. When someone tells a 'barefaced lie' it is not a very good one and you immediately know it is not true.

Castigate – to punish harshly.

Dexterously – skillful, especially in the use of one's hands

Dwindle – to get smaller; diminish.

Multitudinous – a lot; a great number.

Sanctimonious – pretending to be very religious or righteous.

Watchdog – a person or group that keeps close watch to discover wrong or illegal activity.

- "Fair play" (The Tempest) - Follow the rules, especially in competitions or sports.
- "All that glitters isn't gold" (Merchant of Venice) - We usually use this phrase after we discover the fact that something that looks good turns out not to be that great.
- "Wear one's heart on one's sleeve" (Othello) - To be a hopeless romantic (or be open and honest about how you feel) is to wear one's heart on one's sleeve.
- "Break the ice" (The Taming of the Shrew) - Often when you meet someone for the first time, you "break the ice" by asking them polite questions about themselves.

ACTIVITY 13:

This is a comic strip from one of the scenes.

Remember the play you've just seen and retell how this particular scene was staged...



ACTIVITY 14:

This is a comic strip from another scene you did not see.

Complete the scene with the dialogues (in your own words, of course)



Here are the clues of what happens:

Caliban is convincing Stephano and Trinculo to kill Prospero.

Ariel appears (using his powers of invisibility) and listens to the plan.

Stephano sings (out of tune and horribly) a song about defeat.

Ariel then sings the correct tune and (because Ariel is invisible) Stephano and Trinculo think that Caliban is the one correcting him...



Extra activities for Level 1 and 2

These additional activities can further develop the learner's general communicative and creative skills.

Choose an incident from *The Tempest*. Transform this text into one of your own by writing a **MODERN TAKE** on the content or ideas in the play.

Here are some different approaches to consider but you can come up with one of your own:

The diary

Imagine Miranda writing about his plans and ambitions and her frustration with her father while growing up on the island. To transform this further, you could apply the situations to someone facing a similar situation today.

The police statement

Police witness statements have a very particular form. You could use this to re-tell the scene with the dogs

The daytime talk show

Shakespeare's characters often have secrets that lead to big problems. They use soliloquies to get things off their chest when they are on their own. Would a daytime confession on TV have helped them? Could you throw Prospero, his brother and Oprah together in the hopes that they could sort their problems out?

The celebrity profile

Shakespeare's main characters are usually upper class. Like kings or important nobles and generals. You could write about these characters as if you were from a magazine. You could write about what they do, what their new hobbies or homes look like and try to help your readers understand them better.

The modern film adaptation

Directors love **updating** stories like *Romeo and Juliet*. The film of *West Side Story* is an updated version of the story set in 1950s New York. Director Baz Luhrmann set the story in modern day Los Angeles in his 1996 film.

Try to do something similar with the *Tempest*. Where and when would you set it? Outline the plot.