

**THE TEMPEST –
CONTEXT 1610 - 1611**

Elizabeth I
(ruled 1558–1603)
James I
(ruled 1603–1625)

Shakespeare’s final play.

Sea exploration was booming in the Elizabethan era as people ‘discovered’ new parts of the world. Queen Elizabeth I was obsessed with their discoveries and was happy to pay for their travels. Led by her example, the rest of the country were also fascinated by their stories and goods.

This is one of **Shakespeare’s shortest plays.**

The Tempest has more stage directions than most of Shakespeare’s plays; performance was at the forefront of Shakespeare’s mind!

Shakespeare’s farewell to the stage. Like Prospero, Shakespeare is a magician giving up his art.

The Tempest – William Shakespeare

Act One	A huge storm batters a ship carrying Alonso, (the King of Naples), Sebastian, Ferdinand Antonio, Gonzalo and others. On the island near the storm, Prospero and Miranda are introduced. We learn that Prospero has created the storm as an act of revenge against his brother Antonio. Ariel, Prospero's magic spirit, tells us that the men onboard the ship have all made it ashore unharmed as planned. Caliban, a native of the island, is also introduced. Ariel leads Ferdinand to Miranda and the two immediately fall in love.
Act Two	The shipwreck survivors wake up on the island. Ariel's song puts them all to sleep again except for Sebastian and Antonio. Antonio manipulates Sebastian into plotting to kill King Alonso. The two are about to kill Alonso in his sleep but Ariel awakens everyone. Trinculo, a jester, discovers Caliban and Stephano gives Caliban alcohol, causing Caliban to think Stephano is more powerful than Prospero. The three men set off together deciding to kill Prospero...
Act Three	In his invisibility cloak, Prospero witnesses Ferdinand and Miranda together and Prospero approves of Ferdinand for his daughter. Caliban succeeds in convincing Stephano into killing Prospero and taking over the island but Ariel lures the group away with his entrancing sounds...
Act Four	Prospero tells Ferdinand that he will give his daughter's hand in marriage to him. Prospero conjures up a beautiful, mythical party to celebrate. Prospero instructs Ariel to lead the shipwrecked men on the island before him. Remembering Stephano, Caliban and Trinculo, Prospero has Ariel distract them. Prospero promises Ariel that he will soon be free.
Act Five	Prospero brings everyone except Stephano, Caliban and Trinculo before him in a circle. Spellbound, he verbally reprimands the men who exiled him. Prospero also intends to destroy his ability to use magic. Prospero forgives King Alonso, and tells Sebastian and Antonio he will keep secret their plan to kill Alonso, forgiving both. King Alonso is overjoyed to see his son Ferdinand and soon learns of Ferdinand's marriage to Miranda. Prospero forgives Stephano and Trinculo. Caliban is embarrassed that he followed a fool (Trinculo). Caliban is given his freedom. Ariel is at last set free.

Tempest	A violent storm.	Colonialism	When one country establishes itself in another country.
Usurp	To take control of someone’s power.	Superiority	The state or fact of being better, more important, or higher in rank than others
Vengeful	Seeking to harm someone in return for a perceived injury.	Monologue	A dramatic speech by a single actor.
Supernatural	To depart from what is usual or normal especially so as to appear to transcend the laws of nature.	Soliloquy	A speech made by a character whilst alone, usually to express their thoughts or feelings to the audience.
Justice	Morally fair behaviour or treatment.	Aside	A line spoken by an actor not intended for the others on the stage.
Callous	Showing a cruel disregard for others.	Pathos	A situation that makes us feel sympathy.

King Alonso	King of Naples. The King helped Antonio to usurp Prospero. He becomes regretful.
Sebastian	Alonso’s brother. Aggressive, cowardly and disloyal.
Ferdinand	Alonso’s son. Falls in love with Prospero’s daughter, Miranda.
Prospero	The rightful Duke of Milan. The play’s protagonist. He wields power over his enemies through magic and, having been usurped as Duke of Milan, now rules the island.
Antonio	Prospero’s brother. Antonio stole Prospero’s title to become the Duke of Milan. Power hungry.
Gonzalo	An old and honest Lord who helped Prospero and Miranda when they were sent off in a leaky boat.
Miranda	Prospero’s daughter. Miranda falls in love with Ferdinand.
Ariel	An airy spirit who serves Prospero. Prospero saved Ariel from a witch. Eventually Ariel earns freedom.
Caliban	A native of the island who Prospero enslaves. He believes the island is rightfully is.
Trinculo	A jester.
Stephano	A drunken butler.

CONTEXT**A Midsummer Night's Dream – William Shakespeare****CHARACTERS**

Elizabeth I
(ruled 1558–1603)

When the play was written, Elizabeth 1st was Queen. She decided not to get married which many people disagreed with.

Shakespeare went to a grammar school where he was taught Ancient Greek.

The play is set in Ancient Greece and follows the rules of a comedy from Ancient Greece.

Many Elizabethans believed in and feared magic

Cupid is the ancient god of love. He is usually presented as a baby whose arrows make people fall in love

Act One	Hermia and Lysander love each other but are not allowed to marry so decide to run away to the forest to get married in secret. Demetrius wants to marry Hermia. Helena loves Demetrius. They follow Hermia and Lysander into the forest.
Act Two	In the forest, Oberon and Titania are arguing. Oberon sees Demetrius and Helena arguing and commands Puck to use the potion on the Athenian man to make him fall in love with Helena. However, the first Athenian man Puck sees is Lysander, so he puts the love potion on him. Lysander falls madly in love with Helena
Act Three	Puck sees Bottom in the forest and transformed his head into a donkey's head. He puts the love potion on Titania, who falls in love with Bottom. Puck puts the love potion on Demetrius so that he falls in love with Helena. As a result, both men love Helena so there is chaos. Puck eventually drops a herb in Lysander's eyes to put him back to normal.
Act Four and Five	Oberon finds Titania and Bottom and decides that he has had enough fun. Puck drops a herb in her eyes, she wakes and leaves with Oberon. The lovers return to Athens where Bottom and the other actors perform their play at the wedding of the three happy couples: Theseus and Hippolyta, Lysander and Hermia and Demetrius and Helena

VOCABULARY

Authority	The power or right to give orders, make decisions and enforce obedience.	Mock	To make fun of someone.
Patriarchy	A system or government in which men hold the power.	Unrequited	If a person loves someone who doesn't love them back, the person's love is unrequited.
Quarrel	A disagreement.	Monologue	A dramatic speech by a single actor.
Supernatural	To depart from what is usual or normal especially so as to appear to transcend the laws of nature.	Soliloquy	A speech made by a character whilst alone, usually to express their thoughts or feelings to the audience.
Disorder	Disruption. A state of confusion.	Aside	A line spoken by an actor not intended for the others on the stage.
Humiliation	To feel ashamed or embarrassed. The action of humiliating someone.	Pathos	A situation that makes us feel sympathy.

Theseus	The duke of Athens. He is a strong and strict ruler of the city..
Hippolyta	Theseus's bride. She was a fearless warrior.
Egeus	Hermia's stubborn father who wants her to marry Demetrius or be put to death.
Hermia	Egeus's daughter who is in love with Lysander.
Lysander	He is in love with Hermia and runs away to the forest with her.
Demetrius	He wants to marry Hermia and is disgusted by Helena's love for him.
Helena	Hermia's friend who is desperately in love with Demetrius.
Oberon	The King of the Fairies who controls the love potion.
Titania	The Queen of the Fairies who falls in love with Bottom when the love potion is put on her. Compared to Queen Elizabeth.
Bottom	A weaver and actor who has his head turned into a donkey. Titania falls in love with him when she is under the love potion's influence.
Puck	Oberon's mischievous servant who puts the potion on people's eyes.

Harper Lee was an American novelist. TKAM was an immediate bestseller and won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize. Lee won the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contribution to Literature.

There are clear links between Lee and Scout. Like Scout, Lee was the daughter of a well-respected lawyer and her father (unsuccessfully) defended two black men in a murder case.

The Wall Street Crash and The Great Depression. In the 1920s, the USA had been an enormously prosperous nation. However, in October 1929 millions of dollars were wiped out in an event that became known as the Wall Street Crash. This triggered the Great Depression across the country throughout most of the 1930s. In this time, between 12 and 15 million (one third of the population at the time) became unemployed, and many people lost their life savings as banks went bust. With no social support system, many families were left to face poverty.

Racism. Life was tough for black people living in America in the 1930s. Racism was still rampant, and there were not yet laws ruling against racial discrimination. White and black people were segregated at the time, and black people were considered 2nd class citizens. Black people often had to work harder for less money, often being given the ‘dirty work’ in their industry. The lynching of black people was common, sometimes for the most petty or unproven of crimes. The Jim Crow laws of post-1876 strongly reinforced racism, and discrimination continued long after the laws ceased.

The Scottsboro Trials - In 1931, when Lee was five, nine young black men were accused of raping two white women near Scottsboro, Alabama. After a series of lengthy, highly publicized, and often bitter trials, five of the nine men were sentenced to long prison terms. It was suspected that the women who had accused the men were lying.

To Kill A Mockingbird – Harper Lee

Synopsis

Scout Finch lives with her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus, in the sleepy Alabama town of Maycomb. One summer, Jem and Scout befriend a boy named Dill, who has come to live in their neighbourhood for the summer, and the trio acts out stories together.

Dill becomes fascinated with the spooky house on their street called the Radley Place. The house is owned by Mr. Nathan Radley, whose brother, Arthur (nicknamed Boo), has lived there for years without venturing outside. Atticus puts a stop to their antics, urging the children to try to see life from another person’s perspective before making judgments.

Atticus agrees to defend a black man named Tom Robinson, who has been accused of raping a white woman. Because of Atticus’s decision, Jem and Scout are subjected to abuse from other children. Tom Robinson’s trial begins, and when the accused man is placed in the local jail, a mob gathers to lynch him.

At the trial itself, Atticus provides clear evidence that the accusers, Mayella Ewell and her father, Bob, are lying; however, it is down to the all-white jury to make the decision.

Following the verdict, Bob Ewell feels that Atticus and the judge have made a fool out of him, and he vows revenge; he attacks Jem and Scout as they walk home from a Halloween party. Boo Radley intervenes, however, saving the children.

Quotations

- “Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.”
- “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”
- “The one thing that doesn’t abide by majority rule is a person’s conscience.”
- “I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand.”

Scout	The narrator and protagonist of the story
Jem	Scout’s brother and Atticus’ son. Jem is shaken by the injustice in Maycomb.
Dill	Friend of Jem and Scout. Dill spends every summer with his aunt, Miss Rachel Haverford.
Atticus	Maycomb attorney and state legislative representative who is assigned to represent Tom Robinson. A widower, Atticus is a single parent to two children: Jem and Scout.
Calpurnia	The Finchs' African American housekeeper. She grew up at Finch's Landing and moved with Atticus to Maycomb. She is the closest thing to a mother that Scout and Jem have.
Aunt Alexandra	Atticus' sister. Aunt Alexandra lives at Finch's Landing, the Finch family homestead, but she moves in with Atticus and the children during Tom Robinson's trial.
Tom Robinson	The black man who is accused of raping and beating Mayella Ewell
Bob Ewell	The Ewell patriarch, Bob Ewell spends his welfare checks on alcohol. He claims to have witnessed Tom attacking Mayella.
Boo Radley	The mysterious neighbour who piques the children's interest. They've never seen him and make a game of trying to get him to come outside.

Archetype	Bildungsroman	Defendant
Protagonist	Malapropism	Jury
Antagonist	Colloquial	Cross examine
Theme	Foreshadowing	Plea
Motif	Allegation	Sentence
Symbol	Bona Fide	Epigraph