

# “THE TEMPEST”

PIEDMONT PLAYERS SHAKESPEARE  
PRESENTATION

## Pre Activities

*Discuss the purpose of the field trip. Introduce play etiquette and vocabulary. Provide opportunities for students to explore the background of the play and the context in which it was written. Allow students to use the pre-activities to create focus questions to be discussed after the play.*

## Post Activities

*Appropriate post-activities will facilitate student learning and increase the value of the field experience. Have students create a bulletin board, thank you cards, or things like character webs. Students can evaluate the experience using a tool that they create, while placing emphasis on literary elements.*

## Writing Workshop

*Students can choose a small moment story from their experience watching “The Tempest”. During the mini-lesson, introduce or review the skill that you want students to focus on during their writing. Use your small moment entry from the experience as an example. Don’t forget to share at the end of the lesson*

## SIOP

*Students can create podcasts, Photobooth presentations and Garage Band to document their knowledge after attending the play. Partners can create a script and practice before recording their final product. SIOP vocabulary strategies can be used as pre-activities. Other SIOP strategies (SIOP Book) can be used.*

## THE TEMPEST

A Tempest, a storm, causes a shipwreck. The passengers of a royal party become stranded on an island after the ship breaks in half. Then, the themes emerge.

### Loyalty and Betrayal

One force that motivates Prospero's need for revenge is the bitterness that accompanies the feeling of betrayal. He has been betrayed by his brother, an act which Prospero can never forget. Questions of loyalty and betrayal are explored in a variety of ways in the play.

### Civilized vs. Savage Behavior or Nature vs. Nurture

When the audience first meets Caliban in *The Tempest* they must decide whether or not it feels that Caliban's behavior is worthy of the punishment that Prospero afflicts upon him. Is Caliban's savage behavior a threat to the well-being of Prospero or Miranda, or does



ignorance cause them to interpret as dangerous actions that are merely natural?

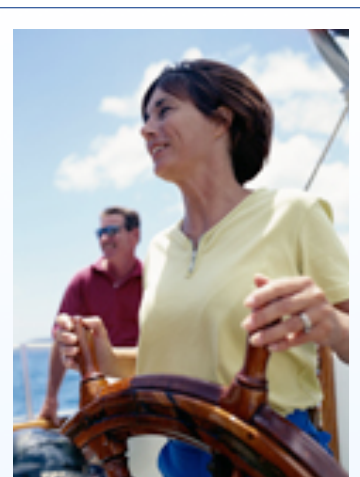
### Servitude and Slavery

Without question, the theme of slavery and servitude pervades the world of *The Tempest*. The play takes place on an island full of spirits who are in servitude (or slavery) to the magical powers of Prospero and his books. Because of Prospero's ability to control his surroundings and the forces that move the people around him, each and every character is in one way or another in slavery to this power.

### Forgiveness

What makes Prospero decide to forgive his enemies at the end of the play? One of the themes that Shakespeare explores in *The Tempest* is the nature of vengeance and forgiveness. Throughout the course of the play the audience is led to believe that Prospero is working toward some great act of revenge upon those who have wronged him. Somewhere along the way, however, Prospero loses his desire for revenge and finally decides to break the staff that gave him power to manipulate those around him. It is Prospero's change of heart that is perhaps the most mysterious act of all.

*Taken from: <http://www.mccarter.org/Education/tempest/index.html>*



### Internet Resources

- Kellee Watkins' Edgate Page; Look for
  - Lesson plan and activity attachments
  - Lesson plan and activity links
- [www.webenglishteacher.com/tempest.html](http://www.webenglishteacher.com/tempest.html)
- <http://www.mccarter.org/Education/tempest/index.html>
- <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/drama/resource/4090.html>