



beginner

R A I N B O W S

The Tempest

William Shakespeare



edisco



R A I N B O W S

William Shakespeare

The Tempest

Adaptation, dossiers and activities by
Jole Pignet and Arlette Finotto

Illustrations by
Emanuele Bartolini



edisco

The Tempest

Project editor: Raffaele Polichetti

Revisor: Stefan Cooper

Design: Manuela Piacenti

Illustrations: Emanuele Bartolini

Quality controller: Paola Ghigo

Page layout: C.G.M. s.r.l.

Computer to Plate: Imago s.r.l.

Printing: M.P. Stampa - Mathi



All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the publisher.

We would be happy to receive your comments and suggestions and give you any other information concerning our material.

Our e-mail and web-site addresses are:

info@edisco.it – <http://www.edisco.it>

Copyright © Edisco Editrice

Via Pastrengo 28

10128 Torino (Italy)

Tel. (+39) 011.54.78.80

Fax (+39) 011.51.75.396

Reprint

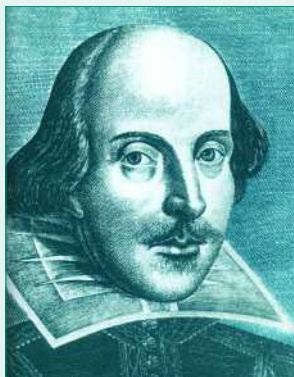
5 4 3 2 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• William Shakespeare	4
BEFORE READING	6
Chapter 1 – A Sad Story	7
AFTER READING	15
• Extension: William's letter to his friend Ben Jonson	19
BEFORE READING	20
Chapter 2 – Alien Creatures	21
AFTER READING	26
• Extension: Going to the theatre in Shakespeare's times	29
BEFORE READING	30
Chapter 3 – Slave for Love	31
AFTER READING	38
• Extension: Announcement	41
BEFORE READING	42
Chapter 4 – Plans for Murder	43
AFTER READING	50
• Extension: The Tempest: features and interpretations	53
BEFORE READING	54
Chapter 5 – Brave New World	55
AFTER READING	68
• Extension: Shakespeare, a forerunner of the "fantasy" genre	71
• SUMMING-UP ACTIVITIES	72
• GLOSSARY	74

The author

William Shakespeare



William Shakespeare, born in Stratford-Upon-Avon in 1564, is considered the greatest English poet and playwright¹ of all times. We know very little about him: he probably attends² the local grammar school³, marries at 18 and has three children. Ten years later he is already famous in London as an actor and a dramatist. In 1595 he is one of the owners⁴ of the company of actors called *The Chamberlain's*⁵ *Men* and in 1599 he is a co-partner of the Globe Theatre. He returns to Stratford in 1610 and here he dies in 1616.

Shakespeare lives during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in which all the arts flower⁶ under the influence of the Renaissance⁷. London, capital of the kingdom⁸, is the centre of the cultural revival. Poets celebrate the Queen and dramatic companies frequently act in front of the Court. Playwrights and actors look for the protection of important people (King, Queen, Lord Chamberlain) because the City authorities consider them vagabonds and thieves⁹.

Many public theatres open outside the London walls, on the banks¹⁰ of the river Thames, and the Globe is the most famous.

Shakespeare produces 36 plays. Some are tragedies (for example, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*), some are comedies (for example, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Love's Labour Lost*). In the last period of his life, apart from a tragedy (*Henry VIII*), Shakespeare writes only romances, or fantasies dominated by the central theme of love (for example, *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*).

1. *playwright*: author of plays (comedies, tragedies, etc.).
2. *attends*: goes to.
3. *grammar school*: school where students learn also Latin and Greek.
4. *owner*: possessor.
5. *Chamberlain*: high officer responsible for the King's money.

6. *flower*: develop.
7. *Renaissance*: period of the revival of literature and art in the 16th century.
8. *kingdom*: land of a king.
9. *thieves* (*pl. of thief*): people that take away things dishonestly.
10. *bank*: side.

Model of the Globe theatre.



Shakespeare usually takes inspiration for his works from history or from a fictional¹¹ source¹² (for example, a *novella*), but there is no specific source for *The Tempest* (1611). This work is the original product of a genius and the expression of a mature and more tolerant vision of life and of men.

11. *fictional*: not real, produced by imagination.

12. *source*: origin.

CHARACTERS

Prospero:	the true Duke of Milan and a great magician
Miranda:	Prospero's young daughter
Antonio:	Prospero's brother and usurping Duke of Milan
Alonso:	King of Naples
Ferdinand:	Alonso's son and heir
Sebastian:	Alonso's brother
Gonzalo:	the king's Counsellor
Ariel:	an airy spirit
Caliban:	a savage monster
Trinculo:	a Neapolitan clown
Stephano:	a Neapolitan sailor
Setting:	aboard a ship and on a desert island in the Mediterranean sea
Action:	one day

BEFORE READING

- 1 Write at least four adjectives you can use to describe a tempest, choosing from the following list.

*strong – tall – heavy – terrible – yellow
high – clear – dark – deep*

- a. c.
b. d.

- 2 Revise the names of the members of a family. Use the suggestions to complete the table.

father	
	aunt
son	
	sister

- 3 Write the number of the correct definition for the following words.

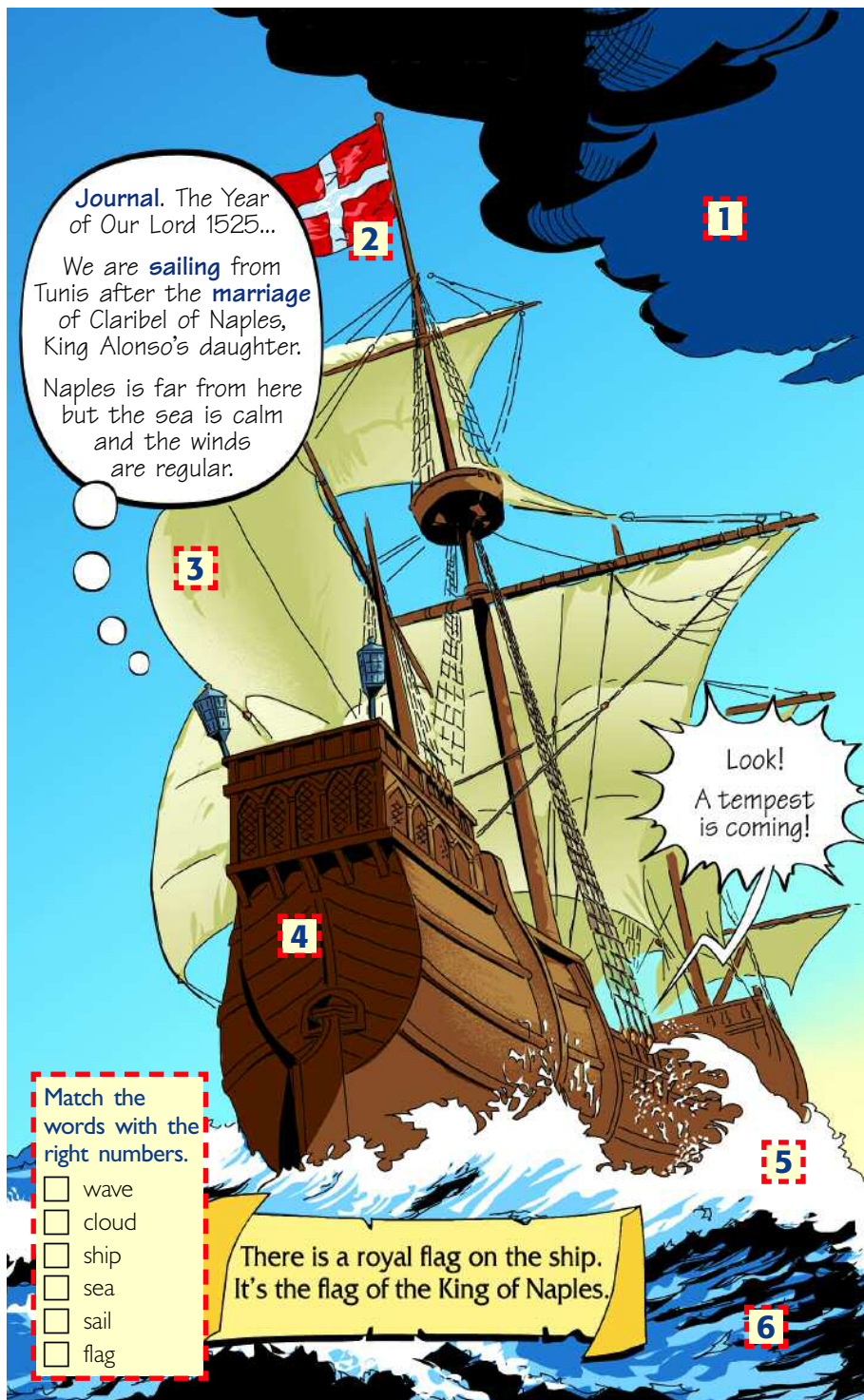
- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. sea | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Land surrounded by water. |
| b. ocean | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Large current of water. |
| c. island | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Surface movement of the water. |
| d. wave | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Large area of salt water. |
| e. river | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Very large area of salt water. |



Miranda (J.W. Waterhouse, 1916)

The Tempest

A Sad Story



Suddenly a violent tempest arrives...
The wind is strong and the waves are high.
The lords and the **sailors** are praying.

KA-TA-CRACK

Good Lord,
mercy on us!
Stop the
tempest!

Blessed
Virgin, help
us to return
to Naples!
I promise...
AARGH!!



אסתר ואחיה

There is an island in the Mediterranean Sea.

The island is full of trees, beaches and caverns and it looks deserted.

But it isn't deserted.

Prospero and Miranda live there in a cavern.



Oh, Father, I am **scared**! The sky is so black, and the sea is so rough.

Don't be **afraid**, dear Miranda. The tempest is the work of my magic art!



Oh, Father! Help the people **on board** the ship. Listen to their **cries**!

My dear child, there is a tempest to protect you. But I can stop it. Sit down, Miranda, and listen to me.

Prospero extends his arm and the tempest **is over**. Then he goes near a magic **pool**. It is like a **screen** and images **flow** on it.

It is time...
er... It is
time to tell
you who
you are...

Who I am
Father?
Oh, oh! I am
your **loving**
daughter,
you know
that!

Not that,
Miranda...
Who you are
and where you are
from... What do
you remember
from... er...
the past?

Before
the island?
It is like a
dream... Some
people around
a woman that
is sleeping.

She is
your poor
mother.
She is...
dead!

