



SANTA CRUZ
SHAKESPEARE
EDUCATION PROGRAM

THE TEMPEST

In one of his last plays, Shakespeare's *The Tempest* explores the relationship between art and magic, power and anger, and freedom and forgiveness. Is it more important to revenge ourselves on those who have wronged us, or to find reconciliation with our enemies? Below you will find resources to introduce this play to your students.

Utah Shakespeare Festival's 2013 production of *The Tempest*. Photo by Karl Hugh.



The Show Must Go On

Are you thinking about using *The Tempest* as your classroom's Shakespeare performance when it is safe to gather once more? Utah Shakespeare Festival's activities about directing and designing this show could be a productive start to developing *The Tempest* for the stage with your students.

Stormy Weather

It's no surprise that a play named *The Tempest* opens in the middle of a huge storm at sea. But how can a director and a team of designers create that storm onstage? Ask students to brainstorm different ways to present the storm and shipwreck onstage. Then divide students into three groups and assign each a budget—one group has a high school drama club budget, one has a regional theatre budget, and one has a Broadway theatre budget. Each group should develop a concept or proposal for the storm scene, complete with lights, set, sound, props, and costumes, considering their respective budgets. Have each group present their ideas to the class. How does budget affect the staging of the storm? How realistically should the storm be staged?

Be a Sound Designer

The Tempest is one of Shakespeare's most sound-heavy plays. Have students read Caliban's speech: "Be not afeard, the isle is full of noises, / Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not" (3.2.135-136). Then go back and ask students to pick out as many references to sound as they can find, both in the text and in the stage directions. Creating a sound design for a play or movie is an important part of telling the story. What kinds of sounds exist on the island in *The Tempest*? Ask students to create one sound cue for a moment in the play, using music, voices or found items (recorded or live) to create the sound. How does sound help to tell the story?

Revenge or Mercy

In the Lesson Plan link below, your students will spend time free-writing their response to a scenario that embarks on similar themes in *The Tempest*. Would you seek vengeance on someone who betrayed you? Or would you be forgiving?



Utopias

In the same Lesson Plan link below, your students will have the opportunity to describe and design their own version of how a perfect world looks.



Lesson Plan Link: [From A Teacher's Guide to the Signet Classic Edition of Williams Shakespeare's The Tempest](#)



Contact Us

SCS Education Coordinator Alexi Carr

Phone: 831-460-6396 x5

Email: education@santacruzshakespeare.org

Special Thanks

The California Arts Council

Mike Ryan

Signet Classic Edition of *The Tempest*

Susan and Michael Warren

Utah Shakespeare Festival

And all who support SCS's Educational Programming



SANTA CRUZ SHAKESPEARE
500 Chestnut Street Suite 250
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

•
THE GROVE AT DELAVEAGA PARK
501 Upper Park Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95065
santacruzshakespeare.org

[Unsubscribe](#) | [View in browser](#)

500 Chestnut Street, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060