



Name: _____

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS
The Tempest by William Shakespeare (adapted)

Directions: Answers should be handwritten, neat, and in complete sentences.

ACT 1

1. Why do you think Shakespeare starts the play with a storm?

2. Who was Miranda's father?

3. Who does Prospero tell to be like a "nymph?"

4. Why does Caliban claim the island as his own?

Answers should be neat and in complete sentences.

Answers should be neat and in complete sentences.

ACT 2

5. How does Gonzalo's opinion about the island differ from that of Sebastian and Antonio?

6. What motivates Gonzalo in his speech about "the commonwealth?"

7. What motivates Ariel to cast a sleeping spell on Alonso and Gonzalo?

8. What does Ariel's decision to wake Gonzalo and Alonso show about Prospero's motivations?

ACT 3

9. What have Gonzalo and Alonso been doing between scenes that causes them to be "exhausted?"

Answers should be neat and in complete sentences.

Answers should be neat and in complete sentences.

10. How does Gonzalo's speech beginning with "Faith, sir, you need not fear" further develop his character?

11. What is the purpose of Ariel's appearance?

12. What effect does Ariel's arrival have on the mood of the scene?

ACT 4

13. How does the love between Miranda and Ferdinand differ from the love between Prospero and Ariel?

14. Why do the goddesses come to bless Ferdinand and Miranda?

Answers should be neat and in complete sentences.

Answers should be neat and in complete sentences.

15. What does Prospero remember that makes him upset?

16. Why does Prospero want to catch Caliban?

ACT 5

17. Why is Prospero so deeply affected when he learns that he has made Gonzalo sad?

18. What does Prospero need to do to give up his magic?

19. Why doesn't Prospero just tell Alonso his son is alive?

Answers should be neat and in complete sentences.

Answers should be neat and in complete sentences.

20. What is the importance of Prospero choosing to say that Caliban is “mine?”

Answers should be neat and in complete sentences.