



## **SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY**

### Characters

***Prospero* - Father**

***Miranda* - Daughter**

***Ariel* - Spirit**

***Trinculo/Ferdinand* - Sailor**

***Stephano/Stephanie* - Runaway girl**

**Theatr  
lolo**



CEFNOGI CREADIGRWYDD  
CYNGOR CELFYDDYDAU CYMRU  
THE ARTS COUNCIL OF WALES  
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## Act 1

### Scene 1

Unworldly **Miranda** sleeps. Her father **Prospero** tells us he has put a spell on their island to control nature and protect **Miranda** from the outside world. **Miranda** will be fourteen years old the next day. He instructs his spirit servant **Ariel** to wake him at dawn.

*"I have promised to tell her the true nature of her past and how we came to live on this enchanted island."*

### Scene 2

**Trinculo** a young sailor, on the mainland of Italy, is about to earn ten gold pieces by ferrying another youth **Stephano** to his captain's ship at midnight. **Stephano** is really a girl in disguise. **Trinculo** and **Stephanie** were once boy and girlfriend but he is fooled by her disguise. She wishes to escape the confining life her mother has planned for her by running away and being as free as a boy.

**Stephanie (aside):** *"He's the same as ever, all pride and promises."*

### Scene 3

**Miranda** is reluctantly woken by **Ariel's** music at **Prospero's** command. It is her fourteenth birthday and she ungraciously accepts the necklace her father gives her and asks him to keep his promise by telling her the truth about her background. He condemns her unruly behaviour and refuses to keep his promise. She rages and **Prospero** controls her with a powerful spell. Once released, **Miranda** swears she will rebel against her father.

**Miranda:** *"I'll howl into the winds and shake this island to its core."*

### Scene 4

Aboard his boat The Happy Youth, **Trinculo** feels free to talk 'man to man' about his experience of girls and love.

**Trinculo:** *"Come on **Stephano**, you don't get as far as taking their socks off if you don't say you love 'em."*

Meanwhile **Miranda** has stolen her father's magic book and used a spell to cause a tempest. The storm shipwrecks **Trinculo** and **Stephano** who believe they are about to die.

## Scene 5

**Prospero** makes **Ariel** tell him how the storm came about. She tells him **Miranda** stole a spell from his magic book and is now in hiding. He tells **Ariel** to find her and "still her spirit". **Ariel** warns **Prospero** not to be too harsh on his young daughter. **Prospero** then threatens to imprison **Ariel** in the bark of a tree where he first found her. He then regrets his angry words.

**Prospero:** *"Forgive my speech, my daughter makes me rage. But go, find her and on your return I shall be calm and sweet as ever I have."*

## Scene 6

**Trinculo** and **Stephano** have been washed up upon the beach of **Prospero's** island. **Trinculo** notices their clothes are dry and that nature is topsy turvy so he decides they are dead. **Stephano** is much more practical and goes off to find out where they are. To stay safe **Trinculo** pretends to be asleep and is discovered by **Miranda** who holds herself responsible for this death. This is the first man, apart from her father, she has ever seen. She is going to cremate him but hearing her idea **Trinculo** wakes up. As she has a 'smart' way of talking he pretends to be A Duke to impress her. She falls in love with him instantly. They kiss as **Stephano** returns. **Trinculo** introduces **Stephano** as his servant boy. To placate **Stephano**, **Trinculo** even offers to share **Miranda's** kisses with him but really he too has fallen in love.

## Scene 7

**Ariel** has returned and tells **Prospero** she has found **Miranda**. He is reassured that she is wearing her necklace, which means he can track her down. However when he hears she is with two young men he punishes **Ariel** cruelly for saving them from drowning. She then bargains with **Prospero** for her freedom to be returned to her in exchange for leading him to **Miranda**.

## Scene 8

**Miranda** has taken **Trinculo** and **Stephano** to her secret cave. She asks them about the world they know and seeks their reassurance that it is not as her father has described it, false and full of hate. Her questions prompt **Stephano** to press **Trinculo** to tell the truth about himself but he refuses and they fight.

**Stephano:** *"You're not natural. What thought of you for her? Beyond your own desires? You disgust me"*

**Trinculo:** *"Oh? What manner of man be you? Most other lads would have clapped me on the back and urged me on to take my luck."*

**Miranda** subdues them. They talk of her father **Prospero** and they recognise his name. **Stephano** relates a story people tell about him. Obsessed by his books he was said to have killed his wife with magic. **Miranda** is horrified and begs them to help her escape the island.

**Ariel** then arrives and casts her sleeping spell on **Stephano** and **Trinculo**. **Miranda** tears her necklace off as she realises it has been used to track her down. She believed that the cave was her secret but **Ariel** says they have shared this secret during her childhood. She reveals herself to **Miranda**, explaining that **Miranda's** tempest has weakened **Prospero's** powers. **Ariel** explains **Prospero** loves **Miranda** and will give them both their freedom. **Miranda** resists.

**Miranda:** *"It isn't his to give, but mine to take. Besides, how can I trust him anymore than you who will betray me?"*

## Scene 9

**Miranda** is about to wake '**Ferdinand**' **Trinculo** when **Stephano** sees an opportunity to confide in her. She reveals that **Ferdinand** is really **Trinculo** and has changed names to impress her. To back up her story she is forced to reveal that she too has deceived everyone and is really a girl. **Stephanie** explains her experience of boys.

**Stephanie:** *"This boy does not know what moves him. He is driven by his peers whom he calls friends to use and to lose you. He does not care."*

**Miranda** tries a test on **Ferdinand** and catches him out when he answers to **Trinculo**. He does however confess to having been in love once with **Stephanie** but that he lacked the words to express himself which made him defensive and aggressive. He claims to have changed. Then **Miranda** hears thunder and knows it is her father.

## Scene 10

**Prospero** uses his powers to make **Trinculo** and **Stephanie** unconscious. **Miranda** thinks they are dead. **Prospero** interrogates **Miranda**, predicting that she will already be in love and ready to leave the island which she confirms is true.

**Miranda:** *"say what you want. My feelings for this youth are beyond your control. In that at least I'm free."*

**Prospero** wants her to understand that the world out there is as made up as the island is. He has tried to free her from having to conform to the stupidities people conform to. She points out to him that his freeing of her has in fact imprisoned her.

**Prospero** then enchants **Trinculo** and **Stephanie** and makes them act out a play in which the problems of marriage and domestic life are played out. The scene concludes that love is not enough to keep them together and **Stephanie** is left holding the baby.

## Scene 11

**Prospero** tells **Miranda** to view the play as a warning of what could happen to her if she goes with **Trinculo**. **Miranda** protests that the play is only pretend and that she wants now to hear the truth about her mother. She will leave the island and never see her father again if he doesn't tell her the truth.

**Prospero** tells **Miranda** the story of his arranged marriage to her mother. He knew nothing of women and only married to conform to his father's wishes. He neglected his wife through his obsession with his studies and after the birth of **Miranda** he failed to notice her decline and loneliness. He insisted a wet nurse take over her role and soon *"like a flower that sees no sun she slowly withered and died."* He then swore to reject custom and to conquer nature. He now shows **Miranda** that he understands his actions have repressed her. *"Even in the pursuit of good, men are capable of terrible things."*

**Miranda** and **Prospero** come to an understanding with forgiveness, they hug each other.

**Ariel** then urges **Prospero** to restore the balance of nature to the island with his spells and he agrees. He tells **Miranda** to wake her friends, which she does. Father and daughter separate. **Ariel** is to see the young people are safe leaving the island as her last duty to **Prospero**.

## Scene 12

As **Ariel** reassures him that they are safe to travel, **Prospero** reflects;

**Prospero:** " *I know she is a woman now,  
but I cannot help, but see her as she was.  
A child that came to me  
with every scrape of the knee.  
Who wept and laughed and grew  
within the warm embrace of my eyes.  
And now she goes – is gone. **Ariel?***

**Ariel** is given her freedom but does not offer her forgiveness to her captor as **Prospero** requests. He observes:

**Prospero:** " *Have I not been a fair master and an honest  
Father?  
The future will judge a parent best,  
for how our children treat their own  
is the truest reflection of our care.*"

## Scene 13

They are about to leave the island in the Happy Youth. **Miranda** sees her childhood in the grains of sand and prepares with trepidation to face her new life with her friends, as they sail into their futures. **Stephanie** resolves to be open with her parents having seen **Miranda** be open with her father. **Trinculo** believes he has changed forever and offers his loyalty to **Miranda**.

## TEACHERS NOTES

Here are some questions and quotations from our play **Eye of the Storm** by **CHARLIE WAY**. The themes include the following and could be a stimulus for group discussion or mind mapping alone or in pairs. The quotations could be used as a starting point for improvisation in drama or as a stimulus for writing. A précis of the scenario is there to support your lessons and recall of the play.

- ANGER A TEMPEST OF RAGE
- CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD
- WHAT IS LOVE?
- BOYFRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS ATTITUDES TO EACH OTHER
- CONSTANT OPPOSITION ARGUEING WITH PARENTS
- SLEEP
- INDEPENDENCE DEPENDENCE WHO'S RULES?
- PRETENDING TO BE SOMEBODY YOU ARE NOT
- PARENTS

### TEMPEST OF ANGER

Miranda rages when her father Prospero refuses to keep his promises to her.

Miranda

*A storm? I'll give you a storm.  
I'll raise the waters from the deep.  
I'll turn the sea outside in  
And pitch it up upon its back.  
I'll howl into the winds  
and shake this island to its core.  
I will destroy the mud and rock  
On which it stands with my tempest.*

**QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A STATE WHERE YOU HAVE HAD AN UNCONTROLABLE RAGE, A TEMPEST OF ANGER? ONLY SAY WHAT YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE SHARING WITH OTHER PEOPLE.**

hitting out      flying off the handle      off on one  
having a tantrum      trashing the place  
out of control      **TEMPEST**      strong willed  
giving vent to your feelings      losing your temper  
‘I felt like a volcano about to erupt’.

We know it is good to let your feelings out and we know there are consequences if you rage at somebody.

Why were you so angry? What happened before and afterwards?

Have you ever helped somebody who has lost their self control in anger to calm down? How did you do it?

What advice would you give to parents and teenagers about how to understand each other better?

**Prospero:** *"My daughter asleep, her midnight eyes full of childish views, but tomorrow her childhood ends. Tomorrow is her fourteenth birthday..."*

**"She knows nothing of the world..."**

## QUESTIONS ABOUT BECOMING AN ADULT

When does childhood end?

**Prospero:** *"Each day you prove yourself a child."*

*'Miranda, for twelve years we lived happily here, but then, as if summoned by a bell, upon your thirteenth birthday you changed.'*

When does childhood end? What do you think?

- When you reach puberty?
- When you keep your first secret?
- When you leave the place you grew up in?
- When you can stand up for yourself?
- When you are asked to babysit?
- When you have a child of your own?
- When you are allowed out on your own?
- When you earn your own money?
- When you have sex?
- When you can choose the way you live and take responsibility for yourself?
- When your parents are no longer around?

Why do young people leave home?

Money	Love	Problems
Education	Travel	Adventure
Dispute	Work	Rejection
Independence	thrown out	to see the world

WHAT IS LOVE?

*Love?*

*How will you know if you have "fallen in love?"*

*If someone says they have fallen in love with you, how do you know whether to believe them or not?"*

*In all my wildest dreams,*

*I never thought that I would feel, as I feel now.*

Are you free to fall in love with anyone you choose? Or are there any rules that apply?

**Prospero says:** *"Love is not free **Miranda** to wander between rich and poor as water might from hill to sea, being natural."*

## QUESTIONS ABOUT DIFFERENT ATTITUDES BETWEEN BOYFRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS

**Stephanie** says of **Trinculo** 'This boy does not know what moves him. He is driven by his peers to use you and to lose you. He does not care.'

**Trinculo** says "you don't get as far as taking their socks off if you don't say you love 'em."

- Is this truly how boys think about girls?
- Is it true that girls are the only ones that can express their feelings?
- Is it true that boys don't like to talk about feelings?

### GOING AGAINST?

Do you behave in "constant opposition (going against your parents) as **Prospero** thinks **Miranda** does? 'Some awkward, confused and churlish spirit entered your heart. You are in constant opposition.'

### Are you?

Unruly	Ungracious	Moody
Unkept	Rude	Tetchy
Quarrelsome	Untidy	Self willed
Ungrateful	Insolent	Selfish

Miranda: "Not to mention bored."

### Are you bored?

### When are you not bored?

### TEENAGERS AND SLEEP

SLEEP 'All day you sleep. At night, you force yourself awake, I don't know why...'

- Have your sleep patterns changed since you became a teenager?
- How much sleep do you need?
- How much sleep do you get?
- If you could choose for yourself when would sleep and wake?

### INDEPENDENCE AND DEPENDENCE, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF YOU?

- Are you in charge of yourself?
- Who is responsible for your behaviour?
- What do you have to conform to?
- What rules do you have to follow at home?
- Have you got any rules to keep when you are with your friends?

## IDENTITY: WHAT BELONGS TO YOU?

What belongs to you that is your very own and nobody else's?

You could mind map your thoughts. Here are some ideas from other young people

My shoes    my mind    my playstation    my feelings  
my diary    my life    my family    my memory    my mobile  
my secrets    my friends    my body    my pen    my make up

## PRETENDING TO BE WHO YOU ARE NOT

**Trinculo** pretends to be a Duke to impress **Miranda** because he thinks she is a class above him, she talks 'smart'. **Stephanie** warns **Miranda** that she trusts too much, she explains to her about the way the world works;

**Stephanie:** *'Like I said, it's all mixed up out there. People put on all types of guises, for all types of reasons. Sometimes just to survive.'*

**Miranda:** *'You are all deceivers then in the real world'.*

**Stephanie:** *'You must tell her who and what you are.'*

**Trinculo:** *Why?*

**Stephanie:** *'Because its wrong to pretend to be something you're not.'*

Do people have to put on a role to get through or can they just act naturally as they choose? Have you ever pretended to be who you are not e.g. older than you are?

## PARENTS

**Prospero** says that everything he has done has been out of love for **Miranda** but she experiences his control over her as repressive.

**Miranda:** *'You've imprisoned me, like Ariel.'*

When he hears Miranda is in love and wants to leave the island he says, 'I resist these changes only out of love for you and fear for myself, because then I'll be alone.'

*'Even in the pursuit of good, men are capable of terrible things.*

*From this truth and thousands of others I have tried to protect you.'*

**Miranda** says to her father **Prospero** *'How may I grow up until you share these truths with me.'*

Can parents protect their children from the real world they have known through experience? If you were a parent of a teenager what would you want to protect them from?