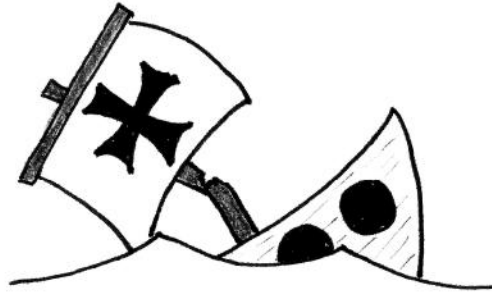


Home and Exile



The majority of characters in the play do not consider the island on which *The Tempest* is set their home: they have been either exiled from their home, or shipwrecked on the island and do not know whether they will ever be able to leave it again. Caliban and Ariel are the only characters who lived on the island previous to Prospero and Miranda's arrival twelve years ago.



Distribute the character cards on the next page among the students. They can be given to either individual students who will stand in for the character, or to a group of students, so that the entire group represents 'their' character. These cards sum up the character's situation at the beginning of the play.



Give the students some time to familiarise themselves with the information on the cards and to discuss any questions they might have at this point in time.

Possible questions the students could ask themselves:

Prospero: Are you happy on the island? Do you often think back on what happened twelve years ago? Do you want to go back to Milan?

Miranda: Is the island your home? Can you imagine living somewhere else? What does it make you feel, knowing that your father lost everything he had except you?

Caliban: How does it make you feel when you think about how you used to live on the island all by yourself, and now you are a slave to the people who arrived here and settled? How do you see your home?

Ferdinand: How do you feel about being on the island? Do you want to go back to Naples? Do you think about your family much?

Ariel: What's the island to you? What do you wish for most?

Antonio: Do you regret the way you came to power in Milan? How do you feel about being stranded on an island now?



After the students have quizzed the hot-seated individuals or groups on their character, open up the discussion to collect ideas and different notions of what 'home' could be: whether it is the place where we were born, or the place we have spent most of our lives in, or whether home is related to the people one loves, no matter where you are.

Ferdinand

- is King Alonso's son
- is from Naples, now shipwrecked on the island
- does not know whether his father or anybody else from the ship survived the storm

Miranda

- is Prospero's daughter, 15 years old
- was only 3 when she arrived on the island
- cannot remember Milan, has only known the island and the people on it

Caliban

- is the son of the witch Sycorax, who was banished to the island
- was born on the island and lost his mother early
- is now Prospero's slave

Ariel

- a spirit that uses magic
- has always lived on the island
- was locked into a tree by the witch Sycorax and freed from there by Prospero; is now his servant

Prospero

- used to be Duke of Milan, exiled to the island by his brother Antonio
- has lived on the island for the last 12 years
- wants revenge

Antonio

- is Prospero's brother
- banished Prospero from Milan to the island to become Duke of Milan himself
- sees the shipwreck as an opportunity to get rid of King Alonso too