

This spirited romance is considered Shakespeare's last comedy. The Roman playwright Seneca's *MEDEA*, and scenarios from the Italian *Commedia dell' Arte* serve as possible inspirational sources for *THE TEMPEST*. The viewer may also allude to 1610 printed accounts of shipwrecked adventurers off the Bermuda Islands as a possible source.

Shakespeare's characters are colorful and contrasting. Witness Prospero at odds with his "perfidious" brother Antonio, "misshapen knave" Caliban, "industrious servant" Ariel, and his daughter "most prized Miranda." Share with Prospero as he conjures:

...Now I want  
Spirits to enforce, Art to enchant

*THE TEMPEST* was written circa 1611 and subsequently performed before King James I on the night November 1