Daily Bard

QUOTATION SHEET

The Tempest: key quotation sheet

10 quotations worth knowing by heart, each with a plain-English reading, space for your notes, and a fill-the-gap test.



How to use this sheet

These are the 10 quotations from the The Tempest study guide, set out for revision. Part one gives each quotation with a plain-English reading and space for your own notes. Part two prints them again with a word missing from each line, so that you can test yourself.

- [ ] Read the quotation aloud twice. Sound helps memory more than staring does.
- [ ] In the note space, name one method (a device, a word choice, a feature of the verse) and the effect it has.
- [ ] Add one link: to a theme, to another moment in the text, or to a point of context.
- [ ] A day later, cover part one and complete part two from memory.

Part one: the quotations

> Me, poor man, my library
> Was dukedom large enough.
>
> PROSPERO · ACT 1, SCENE 2

Plain English: In my brother's view, my books were all the kingdom I needed.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Hell is empty,
> And all the devils are here.
>
> FERDINAND, REPORTED BY ARIEL · ACT 1, SCENE 2

Plain English: The devils have all left hell and come to this ship.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> This island's mine by Sycorax, my mother,
> Which thou tak'st from me.
>
> CALIBAN · ACT 1, SCENE 2

Plain English: I inherited this island from my mother, and you have stolen it.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> You taught me language, and my profit on 't
> Is I know how to curse.
>
> CALIBAN · ACT 1, SCENE 2

Plain English: You taught me to speak, and all I gained is the ability to curse you.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Nothing of him that doth fade
> But doth suffer a sea change
> Into something rich and strange.
>
> ARIEL · ACT 1, SCENE 2

Plain English: Everything in him that would decay is being transformed by the sea into something precious and wonderful.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> Be not afeard. The isle is full of noises,
> Sounds and sweet airs that give delight and hurt not.
>
> CALIBAN · ACT 3, SCENE 2

Plain English: Do not be frightened. The island is full of sounds and sweet music that please and do no harm.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> We are such stuff
> As dreams are made on, and our little life
> Is rounded with a sleep.
>
> PROSPERO · ACT 4, SCENE 1

Plain English: We are made of the same material as dreams, and our short lives are surrounded, and ended, by sleep.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> The rarer action is
> In virtue than in vengeance.
>
> PROSPERO · ACT 5, SCENE 1

Plain English: It is a finer and less common thing to act well than to take revenge.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> MIRANDA O, brave new world
> That has such people in 't!
> PROSPERO 'Tis new to thee.
>
> ACT 5, SCENE 1

Plain English: Miranda: What a splendid new world, with such people in it. Prospero: It is only new to you.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

> This thing of darkness I
> Acknowledge mine.
>
> PROSPERO · ACT 5, SCENE 1

Plain English: This dark creature, I admit, belongs to me.

Method and effect:

Links to: _____

Part two: test yourself

Fill each gap from memory, then check against part one. Mark the ones you missed and come back to them tomorrow.

> Me, poor man, my _____
> Was _____ large enough.
>
> PROSPERO · ACT 1, SCENE 2

> Hell is _____,
> And all the _____ are here.
>
> FERDINAND, REPORTED BY ARIEL · ACT 1, SCENE 2

> This _____ mine by Sycorax, my mother,
> Which thou _____ from me.
>
> CALIBAN · ACT 1, SCENE 2

> You taught me _____, and my profit on 't
> Is I know how to _____.
>
> CALIBAN · ACT 1, SCENE 2

> _____ of him that doth fade
> But doth _____ a sea change
> Into _____ rich and strange.
>
> ARIEL · ACT 1, SCENE 2

> Be not _____. The isle is full of noises,
> Sounds and sweet airs that give _____ and hurt not.
>
> CALIBAN · ACT 3, SCENE 2

> We are such _____
> As _____ are made on, and our little life
> Is _____ with a sleep.
>
> PROSPERO · ACT 4, SCENE 1

The rarer _____ is
In virtue than in _____.

PROSPERO · ACT 5, SCENE 1

_____ O, brave new world
That has such _____ in 't!
PROSPERO 'Tis new to thee.

ACT 5, SCENE 1

This thing of _____ I
_____ mine.

PROSPERO · ACT 5, SCENE 1

Next steps

Turn three of these quotations into full paragraphs with the **essay planner**, and check your method against the **close reading toolkit**. For a small daily dose of the language, **Daily Bard** shows one passage each morning with a plain-English reading on the back of the leaf.



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