

Girls' High School & College

Session-2020-2021

Class-11,A,B,C,D.

English literature worksheet no2

Note: Parents are expected to ensure that the students spend two days to read and understand the summary of Act 1 scene 1 of the play *The Tempest* by Shakespeare, according to the book and website referred below and thereafter answer the given questions.

WEBSITE: Search on Google *The Tempest*,
www.sparksnote.com; wikipedia:www.cliffnotes.com/literature/the-tempest/play/summary.

Book: *The Tempest* (A.T. Atkinson)

Act I Scene I (Summary)

A ship carrying the members of the royal party of Naples is returning home from Tunis after the wedding ceremony of King Alonso's daughter, Claribel, with the King of Tunis. On the way the ship is caught in a terrible storm at sea. The frightened passengers are King Alonso, his brother Sebastian, his son Ferdinand, his advisor Gonzalo, Antonio, Duke of Milan and others. The ship's master shouts to the boatswain to manage the crew and to be quick about it as the ship is in danger of sinking. The boatswain is on the deck trying to handle the situation, but the nervous members of the royal family are getting in his way trying to give orders and commanding him. The boatswain shouts commands at the passengers to keep below deck to ensure their safety and because they are getting in the way of the sailor's work. Gonzalo reminds the boatswain to remember who is on the ship and that he should be patient. The boatswain however has no patience for royal authority in matters of the sea. He finally decides to simply ignore the nervous passengers who are interfering with his work. He insists that nature does not care that the ship is carrying a king and that under such circumstances his own authority must be respected.

Gonzalo trusts that the boatswain is more than capable, but Antonio and Sebastian are skeptical and rude to him for having the audacity in ordering them around.

The boatswain orders them to return to their cabins since they are merely being a hindrance to the crew's effort in saving the ship.

Though equally fearful of sinking, Gonzalo, an older courtier, makes light of the situation by saying that the boatswain is so rude he must be destined to be hanged. Thus he is not likely to be drowned, and with him aboard, the ship is safe. But this half-hearted joke doesn't calm anyone. In fact, by this time the passengers are deserting the ship for the open waves, and Gonzalo's last words "I would fain die a dry death," hold out little hope for their survival.

The ship cracks from the middle. Sailors pray for their lives. Antonio and Sebastian run to be with King Alonso as the ship goes down, while Gonzalo prays for land, any land, to save him from drowning.

Answer the following questions briefly:

- i) Who are the royal people aboard the ship?
- ii) What calamity has just befallen them?
- iii) From where are these people returning? iv) Who is responsible for this calamity that has befallen them?
- v) What were the conditions that made the boatswain to act in a rude manner?
- vi) What does the boatswain ask the passengers to do?
- vii) Why does Gonzalo say that the boatswain is destined to be hanged?
- viii) Where does this scene take place?
- ix) What opinion do you form of the boatswain from the above extract?
- x) What is Gonzalo's opinion about the boatswain?

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