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On another part of the island, Caliban is busy fetching wood and cursing Prospero for the mean things he does to Caliban, like sending spirits to torment him while he works. As Caliban complains of apes that chatter at and bite him, hedgehogs that prick his feet, and snakes that hiss him to madness, Trinculo enters, and Caliban assumes the stranger is another one of Prospero's nasty spirits. Trinculo, a jester and member of the shipwrecked group, wanders alone searching for cover, should another storm come. He spots Caliban, and seeing he is maybe a man or a fish (or both), immediately thinks of how people in England would pay to see an odd thing like this. Then he decides Caliban's deformed shape is simply that of a native islander recently hit by lightning. Brain Snack: In sixteenth and seventeenth-century England (and the rest of Europe), people paid money to see American Indians who had been brought over from the New World and were exhibited like circus animals. Hearing more thunder, Trinculo (quite a wuss, to put it delicately) immediately jumps under Caliban's cape, seeking shelter. Just then, Stefano, the drunken butler, wanders in singing saucy songs about which women will put out for sailors, and which women won't. Surprised at seeing Caliban as a four legged creature (because Trinculo is under his cape), Stefano announces he did not escape drowning to fall to savages. Caliban, thinking Stefano is another of Prospero's spirits, cries out. Stefano is shocked that this four-legged monster knows his own language, and thinks the monster suffers from some fever. Stefano will give the monster a drink to ease him, but also hopes he might drunkenly tame the monster and lure him back to Naples as a present for a European emperor. Stefano makes Caliban drink wine from his flask; the still scared and hiding Trinculo thinks he recognizes Stefano's voice and calls out to him. Finally, after some silly nonsense, Stefano and Trinculo discover each other, and Caliban realizes the two are not spirits, but must be gods, what with the celestial liquor Stefano carries. Stefano doesn't deny it, and drunkenly claims that he was the man in the moon until recently, when he fell down. Caliban, steadily drinking, swears himself to be Stefano's servant and agrees to show his new master the best stuff of the island. Stefano and Trinculo, drunk and sure everyone else is dead, are happy to be kings of this island, with Caliban as their subject. Caliban, now also drunk, is happy to be free of Prospero's tyranny (even though he's just volunteered to be Stefano's servant). Here is the Summary, Analysis, and Commentary of The Tempest Act 2 Scene 2. In this summary, we have described everything that happened in the Scene in very understandable language. This scene is a lot different from the previous scenes as Shakespeare has introduced some humor and entertainment for the audience. This amusement is created by the three characters - Caliban, Trinculo, and Stephano. This scene is much shorter in length than previous scenes and it's easy to remember so I have explained all the happenings of the scene in short, easy, and a few direct paragraphs. This will help you remember all the events that took place in the whole scene and will also provide you ease in learning and understanding the summary. Keep Reading! Checkout: The Tempest Act 1 Scene 1 - Summary Checkout: The Tempest Act 1 Scene 2 - Summary Checkout: The Tempest Act 2 Scene 1 - Summary Checkout: The Tempest Act 3 Scene 1 - Summary Checkout: The Tempest Act 3 Scene 2 - Summary Checkout: The Tempest Act 3 Scene 3 - Summary Checkout: The Tempest Act 4 Scene 1 - Summary Checkout: The Tempest Act 5 Scene 1 - Summary Tempest Act 2 Scene 2 Summary - Starts Here On another part of the island, Caliban who is collecting fuelwood on Prospero's order is cursing and abusing him for seizing his island, controlling him, and making him do common jobs. Then he sees Trinculo coming in his wild costume and thinks that he is another spirit of Prospero who is coming to torture him. To escape torture, he lies down on the ground to hide. Trinculo hears the noise of thunder and thinks that it is going to rain soon. So, it crawls under Caliban's loose garments to escape the rain. Stephano, a clownish character, enters in the Scene. He has been described as a "drunken butler. He has been wandering around the drunken island in a drunk state." At this time also, he has consumed some liquor. On seeing Caliban, he is unable to figure out what this strange-looking creature is. When he notices the two legs of Trinculo and the two legs of Caliban, he thinks that this creature has four legs. Caliban thinks that he is being tortured by the spirit of Prospero. Stephano pours out several drinks into the mouth of Caliban and as a result, he feels happy. Then Trinculo makes some remarks. After a humorous conversation, Stephano pulls him out from under Caliban's loose cloak. They feel happy in each other's company and discuss how they escaped from getting drowned. Caliban has become drunk after the drinks and tells Stephano that he will show him the island and catch food for him. All the three - Caliban, Trinculo, and Stephano get drunk and then move away in a drunken condition. Commentary or Analysis - The Tempest Act 2 Scene 2: Shakespeare has included this scene in the play to provide comic relief to the audience. This scene does not further the plot. All the three characters Caliban, Trinculo, and Stephano behave in a comical way to amuse the readers. The sight of the enormous Caliban, the wild costume of Trinculo, the court jester, and Stephano, the self-proclaimed king of the island, is amusing. "Their earthly humor, their drunkenness, and their sailor's song add entertainment to the scene." This comic scene is designed to provide comic relief to the treacherous plot hatched by Antonio and Sebastian in the previous scenes to kill Alonso and Gonzalo. The seriousness of the murderous plot in the previous scene is lessened by the comical conversation of these three characters in this scene. It provides low and awkward humor to the ordinary people in the audience. I hope that you have found this summary of The Tempest Act 2 Scene 2 helpful for you. If so, then share it with your mates also. If you still have any doubt or question regarding the summary of Act 2 Scene 2 or the play The Tempest then, simply go to the comment section below, ask your question or anything pertinent to the play. I will answer your question as soon as possible. Back to: The Tempest by William Shakespeare In another part of the island, Alonso, Sebastian, Antonio, Gonzalo, Adiritya and others have been washed ashore. Gonzalo tries to console Alonso for at least being alive. Antonio and Sebastian make fun of Gonzalo's ways of constantly trying to please the king with his wit. Gonzalo praises the island because he thinks it is good for life to thrive in. He believes that it has a good atmosphere. Alonso gets irritated with all such talks while grieving for his son Ferdinand who couldn't come ashore with them and they presume whether he is dead or not. Soon they fall asleep under the spell of Ariel's music apart from Antonio and Sebastian who start talking. Antonio starts suggesting to Sebastian that in case Ferdinand is dead and Alonso's only daughter is married in Tunis then he may become the king. Sebastian initially denies and asks him about conscience and how he cast his brother out and became Duke in his place. Now they think of killing Gonzalo and Alonso together so in one stroke the path to kingship will become clear. Ariel intervenes invisibly and wakes Gonzalo up. He wakes up with others and Antonio and Ferdinand lie that it was the roar of a beast. Ariel leaves to inform Prospero all about it and this group is lead away by Gonzalo to remain safe. In another part of the island, Caliban while coming with a load of wood as ordered by Prospero earlier, starts cursing him. Trinculo enters and tries to understand the deformity of Caliban by wondering whether he's a man or a fish or a monster. It starts raining and Stephano joins while singing. Caliban thinks that they're sent by Prospero to torment him so he brings the wood faster. Stephano asks him to drink wine. They get drunk. Stephano in his drunk state jokes that Trinculo and Caliban together look like a four-legged monster. After getting drunk, Caliban starts worshipping them as heavenly gods. Trinculo and Stephen make fun of Caliban and his easily changing loyalty and willingness to serve. Caliban starts singing of freedom and leads the way. Lesson 1 within section Summary. Lesson 3 within section Summary. In this comic scene, Caliban is cursing Prospero. Meanwhile, Trinculo enters and thinks Caliban to be a strange stinking fish. He feels he should exhibit the strange creature in the market of England to make some money. But at that time a thunderstorm threatens him and he takes shelter in the gaberdine of Caliban. It is at this time Stephano, the butler of Alonso, appears and sees the two-headed weird creature with four legs. Not knowing that it is actually Caliban and Trinculo he feels that it would make a proper gift for a king in Naples. He pours some wine into Caliban's mouth, which makes the monster intoxicated. He is willing to consider Stephano his God. He feels that he should serve his new god, leaving Prospero who tortures him with the help of other spirits. He offers to show Stephano all the good places of the island from where he can get spring water and fruits. Trinculo is sceptic about these promises and calls him a liar. After the nerve-racking scene of the ship-wreck, and the long narration of the tragic sequences of Prospero's life, the audience requires some dramatic relief and this is what is provided by this scene. Good-natured fun against the mentality of buying anything strange gives scope for the audience to laugh at themselves. The comedy becomes quite farcical when Trinculo mistakes Caliban for a fish and thinks of exhibiting it in the market. Stephano's entry in a drunken state enhances the comic effect. Together the trio creates a boisterous situation, which the readers would find most enjoyable. Another important aspect is Caliban's poetic description of the island that reveals the only redeeming feature of his evil character. Word-Meanings perchance - feasible; gaberdine - cloak, a long loose upper garment; ague - illness involving fever and shivering; mooncalf - foolish person; sprite - spirit, supernatural being; credulous - gullible; perfidious - treacherous; marmoset - type of small monkey; filberts - cultivated hazel trees; trencher - wooden platter Tags English Literature Summary The Tempest Skip to main content or search all Shakespeare texts Characters in the Play Entire Play A story of shipwreck and magic, The Tempest begins on a ship caught in a violent storm with Alonso, the king of Naples, on board. On a nearby island, the exiled Duke of Milan, Prospero, tells his daughter, Miranda, that he has caused the storm with his magical powers. Prospero had been banished twelve years earlier when Prospero's brother, Antonio—also on the doomed ship—conspired with Alonso to become the duke instead. Prospero and Miranda are served by a spirit named Ariel and by Caliban, son of the island's previous inhabitant, the witch Sycorax. On the island, castaways from the wreck begin to appear. First is Alonso's son Ferdinand, who immediately falls in love with Miranda. Prospero secretly approves of their love, but tests the pair by enslaving Ferdinand. After secretly watching Miranda and Ferdinand exchange vows, Prospero releases Ferdinand and consents to their marriage. Other castaways who appear are Trinculo and Stephano, Alonso's jester and butler, who join forces with Caliban to kill Prospero and take over the island. The nobles from the ship search for Ferdinand and are confronted with a spectacle including a Harpy, who convinces Alonso that Ferdinand's death is retribution for Prospero's exile. Having all his enemies under his control, Prospero decides to forgive them. Alonso, joyously reunited with his son, restores Prospero to the dukedom of Milan and welcomes Miranda as Ferdinand's wife. As all except Caliban and Ariel prepare to leave the island, Prospero, who has given up his magic, bids farewell to the island and the audience. Act 1, scene 1 On board a ship carrying King Alonso of Naples and his entourage, a boatswain directs the crew to fight a great storm, but the ship appears destined to sink. Act 1, scene 2 Prospero, the former duke of Milan, who has been stranded on a barren island for twelve years with his daughter, Miranda, explains to her that he used his magic to raise the storm and that he ensured that no one on the ship was harmed. He then tells her how, twelve years before, his brother Antonio conspired with Alonso, king of Naples, to usurp Prospero's dukedom and put him and Miranda to sea, where they happened upon the barren island that is now their home. Having charmed Miranda asleep, Prospero summons the spirit Ariel, hears Ariel's report of the tempest, and gives him further orders. Prospero wakes Miranda, and they visit Caliban, whom Prospero threatens with torture if he will not continue his labors. Ariel, invisible, entices Ferdinand, son and heir to Alonso, into the presence of Prospero and Miranda. Prospero, delighted that Ferdinand and Miranda fall instantly in love, puts false obstacles in their way by accusing Ferdinand of treason and by using charms to enslave him. Act 2, scene 1 King Alonso and his entourage wander the island in search of Ferdinand. Gonzalo cries unsuccessfully to encourage hope in Alonso of Ferdinand's survival. Then Ariel, invisible, charms asleep all but Antonio and Sebastian. Antonio seizes the occasion to persuade Sebastian to kill King Alonso and Gonzalo and take the throne of Naples. Ariel, invisible, returns to awake Gonzalo, who wakes the rest. They resume their search. Act 2, scene 2 Having escaped the apparently sinking ship, Trinculo finds Caliban hiding under a cloak, under which Trinculo also crawls to take shelter from the storm. Stephano, drunk, finds them both and shares his bottle with them. In return, Caliban abandons Prospero's service and swears to be Stephano's subject. Act 3, scene 1 Ferdinand is visited by Miranda. Prospero observes them unseen as they exchange marriage vows and clasp hands. Act 3, scene 2 Trinculo and Caliban quarrel, and Stephano takes Caliban's part. Ariel, invisible, imitates Trinculo's voice and accuses Caliban of lying, causing further trouble among the three. Caliban calls Prospero a tyrant and urges Stephano to kill Prospero and take Miranda as his consort. Stephano and Trinculo join Caliban in following the music that Ariel plays to lead them out of their way. Act 3, scene 3 King Alonso and his party, weary with searching, are visited by "strange shapes" bringing in a banquet, while Prospero, unseen, observes them. But when Alonso and his party take up the shapes' invitation to eat and drink, Ariel appears as a Harpy and makes the food and drink vanish. The Harpy accuses Alonso, Sebastian, and Antonio of usurping Prospero's dukedom and threatens them with worse than death. The three "men of sin" leave in a desperate state. Act 4, scene 1 Prospero releases Ferdinand and gives him Miranda as his bride-to-be. To celebrate the prospect of their union, Prospero instructs Ariel to have the spirits under Prospero's control perform a masque. During the masque, Prospero remembers the threat posed by Caliban and stops the masque. He joins Ariel in driving off Caliban, Stephano, and Trinculo with spirits in the guise of dogs. Act 5, scene 1 Prospero releases Alonso and the court party from their charmed state and renounces the further use of his magic. Alonso restores Prospero to the dukedom of Milan, and, in return, Prospero reunites him with Ferdinand. Ariel arrives with the ship's master and boatswain, and all are soon joined by Caliban, Stephano, and Trinculo, whom Prospero sends off to decorate his cell. As they prepare to set sail for Naples, Prospero gives Ariel his freedom. Act 5, Epilogue Synopsis: Having escaped the apparently sinking ship, Trinculo finds Caliban hiding under a cloak, under which Trinculo also crawls to take shelter from the storm. Stephano, drunk, finds them both and shares his bottle with them. In return, Caliban abandons Prospero's service and swears to be Stephano's subject. Enter Caliban with a burden of wood. A noise of thunder heard. CALIBAN 1062 All the infections that the sun sucks up 1063 From bogs, fens, flats, on Prosper fall and make him 1064 By inchmeal a disease! His spirits hear me, 1065 And yet I needs must curse. But they'll nor pinch, 1066 'S Frigate me with urchin-shows, pitch me i' th' mire, 1067 Nor lead me like a firebrand in the dark 1068 Out of my way, unless he bid 'em. But 1069 For every trifle are they set upon me, 1070 Sometimes like apes, that mow and chatter at me 1071 10 And after bite me; then like hedgehogs, which 1072 Lie tumbling in my barefoot way and mount 1073 Their prickles at my footfall. Sometime am I 1074 All wound with adders, who with cloven tongues 1075 Do hiss me into madness. Lo, now, lo! 1076 15 Here comes a spirit of his, and to torment me 1077 For bringing wood in slowly. I'll fall flat. 1078 Perchance he will not mind me.' He lies down and covers himself with a cloak.'Enter Trinculo. TRINCULO 1079 Here's neither bush nor shrub to bear off 1080 any weather at all. And another storm brewing; I 1081 20 hear it sing i' th' wind. Yond same black cloud, yond 1082 huge one, looks like a foul bombard that would shed 1083 his liquor. If it should thunder as it did before, I 1084 know not where to hide my head. Yond same cloud 1085 cannot choose but fall by painfuls. 'Noticing Caliban.' 1086 25 What have we here, a man or a fish? Dead or 1087 alive? A fish, he smells like a fish—a very ancient 1088 and fishlike smell, a kind of not-of-the-newest poor-John. 1089 A strange fish. Were I in England now, as once 1090 I was, and had but this fish painted, not a holiday 1091 30 fool there but would give a piece of silver. There 1092 would this monster make a man. Any strange beast 1093 there makes a man. When they will not give a doit to 1094 relieve a lame beggar, they will lay out ten to see a 1095 dead Indian. Legged like a man, and his fins like 1096 35 arms! Warm, o' my troth! I do now let loose my 1097 opinion, hold it no longer: this is no fish, but an 1098 islander that hath lately suffered by a thunderbolt. 1099 'Thunder.' Alas, the storm is come again. My best 1100 way is to creep under his gaberdine. There is no 1101 40 other shelter hereabout. Misery acquaints a man 1102 with strange bedfellows. I will here shroud till the 1103 dregs of the storm be past.'He crawls under Caliban's cloak.'Enter Stephano singing. STEPHANO 1104 I shall no more to sea, to sea. 1105 Here shall I die ashore— 1106 45 This is a very scurvy tune to sing at a man's funeral. 1107 Well, here's my comfort.Drinks.Sings. 1108 The master, the swabber, the boatswain, and I, 1109 The gunner and his mate, 1110 Loved Mall, Meg, and Marian, and Margery, 1111 50 But none of us cared for Kate. 1112 For she had a tongue with a tang, 1113 Would cry to a sailor "Go hang!" 1114 She loved not the savor of tar nor of pitch, 1115 Yet a tailor might scratch her where'er she did itch. 1116 55 Then to sea, boys, and let her go hang! 1117 This is a scurvy tune too. But here's my comfort.Drinks. CALIBAN 1118 Do not torment me! O! STEPHANO 1119 What's the matter? Have we devils here? Do 1120 you put tricks upon 's with savages and men of Ind? 1121 60 Ha? I have not scaped drowning to be afeard now 1122 of your four legs, for it hath been said "As proper a 1123 man as ever went on four legs cannot make him 1124 give ground," and it shall be said so again while 1125 Stephano breathes at' nostrils. CALIBAN 1126 65The spirit torments me. O! STEPHANO 1127 This is some monster of the isle with four 1128 legs, who hath got, as I take it, an ague. Where the 1129 devil should he learn our language? I will give him 1130 some thou art not drowned. Is the storm 1131 70 overblown? I hid me under the dead mooncalf's 1132 gaberdine for fear of the storm. And art thou living. 1133 Stephano? O Stephano, two Neapolitans scaped! STEPHANO 1134 Do not torment me, prithee. I'll bring my 1135 wood home faster. STEPHANO 1136 75He's in his fit now, and does not talk after 1137 the wisest. He shall taste of my bottle. If he have 1138 never drunk wine afore, it will go near to remove 1139 his fit. If I can recover him and keep him tame, I will 1140 not take too much for him. He shall pay for him that 1141 80 hath him, and that soundly. CALIBAN 1142 Thou dost me yet but little hurt. Thou wilt 1143 anon; I know it by thy trembling. Now Prosper 1144 works upon thee. STEPHANO 1145 Come on your ways. Open your mouth. 1146 85 Here is that which will give language to you, cat. 1147 Open your mouth. This will shake your shaking. I 1148 can tell you, and that soundly. 'Caliban drinks.' You 1149 cannot tell who's your friend. Open your chops 1150 again. TRINCULO 1151 90I should know that voice. It should be—but 1152 he is drowned, and these are devils. O, defend me! STEPHANO 1153 Four legs and two voices—a most delicate 1154 monster! His forward voice now is to speak well of 1155 his friend. His backward voice is to utter foul 1156 95 speeches and to detract. If all the wine in my bottle 1157 will recover him, I will help his ague. Come. 1158 'Caliban drinks.' Amen! I will pour some in thy 1159 other mouth. TRINCULO 1160 Stephano! STEPHANO 1161 100Doth thy other mouth call me? Mercy, mercy, 1162 this is a devil, and no monster! I will leave him; I 1163 have no long spoon. TRINCULO 1164 Stephan! If thou be'st Stephano, touch me 1165 and speak to me, for I am Trinculo—be not 1166 105 afeard—thy good friend Trinculo. STEPHANO 1167 If thou be'st Trinculo, come forth. I'll pull 1168 thee by the lesser legs. If any be Trinculo's legs, 1169 these are they. 'He pulls him out from under Caliban's cloak.' 1170 Thou art very Trinculo indeed. How 1171 110 cam'st thou to be the siege of this mooncalf? Can 1172 he vent Trinculos? TRINCULO 1173 I took him to be killed with a thunderstroke. 1174 But art thou not drowned, Stephano? I 1175 hope now thou art not drowned. Is the storm 1176 115 overblown? I hid me under the dead mooncalf's 1177 gaberdine for fear of the storm. And art thou living. 1178 Stephano? O Stephano, two Neapolitans scaped! STEPHANO 1179 Prithee, do not turn me about. My stomach 1180 is not constant. CALIBAN, 'aside' 1181 120These be fine things, an if they be not 1182 sprites. That's a brave god and bears celestial liquor. 1183 I will kneel to him.'He crawls out from under the cloak.' STEPHANO, 'to Trinculo' 1184 How dost thou scape? How 1185 125 cam'st thou hither? Swear by this bottle how thou 1186 125 cam'st hither—I escaped upon a butt of sack, which 1187 the sailors heaved o'erboard—by this bottle, which 1188 I made of the bark of a tree with mine own hands, 1189 since I was cast ashore, CALIBAN 1190 I'll swear upon that bottle to be thy true 1191 130 subject, for the liquor is not earthly. STEPHANO, 'to Trinculo' 1192 Here. Swear then how thou 1193 escapedst. TRINCULO 1194 Swum ashore, man, like a duck. I can swim 1195 like a duck, I'll be sworn. STEPHANO 1196 135Here, kiss the book.'Trinculo drinks.' 1197 Though thou canst swim like a duck, thou art made 1198 like a goose. TRINCULO 1199 O Stephano, hast any more of this? STEPHANO 1200 The whole butt, man. My cellar is in a rock 1201 140 by th' seaside, where my wine is hid.—How now, 1202 mooncalf, how does thine ague? CALIBAN 1203 Hast thou not dropped from heaven? STEPHANO 1204 Out o' th' moon, I do assure thee. I was the 1205 man i' th' moon when time was. CALIBAN 1206 145I have seen thee in her, and I do adore thee. 1207 My mistress showed me thee, and thy dog, and thy 1208 bush. STEPHANO 1209 Come, swear to that. Kiss the book. I will 1210 furnish it anon with new contents. Swear.'Caliban drinks.' TRINCULO 1211 150By this good light, this is a very shallow 1212 monster. I afeard of him? A very weak monster. The 1213 man i' th' moon? A most poor, credulous monster! 1214 —Well drawn, monster, in good sooth! CALIBAN 1215 I'll show thee every fertile inch o' th' island, 1216 155 and I will kiss thy foot. I prithee, be my god. TRINCULO 1217 By this light, a most perfidious and drunken 1218 monster. When's god's asleep, he'll rob his bottle. CALIBAN 1219 I'll kiss thy foot. I'll swear myself thy subject. STEPHANO 1220 Come on, then. Down, and swear.'Caliban kneels.' TRINCULO 1221 160I shall laugh myself to death at this puppy-headed 1222 monster. A most scurvy monster. I could 1223 find in my heart to beat him— STEPHANO 1224 Come, kiss. TRINCULO 1225 —but that the poor monster's in drink. An 1226 165 abominable monster. CALIBAN 1227 I'll show thee the best springs. I'll pluck thee berries. 1228 I'll fish for thee and get thee wood enough. 1229 A plague upon the tyrant that I serve. 1230 I'll bear him no more sticks, but follow thee, 1231 170 Thou wondrous man. TRINCULO 1232 A most ridiculous monster, to make a wonder 1233 of a poor drunkard. CALIBAN, "standing" 1234 I prithee, let me bring thee where crabs grow, 1235 And I with my long nails will dig thee pignuts, 1236 175 Show thee a jay's nest, and instruct thee how 1237 To snare the nimble marmoset. I'll bring thee 1238 Young scamels from the rock. Wilt thou go with me? STEPHANO 1240 I prithee now, lead the way without any 1241 180 more talking.—Trinculo, the King and all our 1242 company else being drowned, we will inherit here. 1243 —Here, bear my bottle.—Fellow Trinculo, we'll 1244 fill him by and by again. CALIBAN sings drunkenly 1245 Farewell, master, farewell, farewell. TRINCULO 1246 185A howling monster, a drunken monster. CALIBAN "sings" 1247 No more dams I'll make for fish, 1248 Nor fetch in firing 1249 At requiring, 1250 Nor scrape trenchering, nor wash dish. 1251 190 'Ban, 'ban, Ca-caliban 1252 Has a new master. Get a new man. 1253 Freedom, high-day! High-day, freedom! Freedom, 1254 high-day, freedom! STEPHANO 1255 O brave monster! Lead the way.They exit. Find out what's on, read our latest stories, and learn how you can get involved. Sign up