

Salma Abouhasswa
Professor Walker
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Reflection

The Tempest by William Shakespeare has served as an important novel for reinterpretation due to its many themes of colonialism. The entire book has been written to show the beginnings of slavery and the journey to the Americas. My group wanted to take a new perspective on the ideas behind *The Tempest*, and twist the story to show the motives of some of the more minor characters. The interpretation our new story will serve to show is the power dynamics between characters that have little to no power over the people above them.

The form of our project will be in a painting. It will serve to show our purpose because it will be a visual representation of the new storyline we have created. The first major power dynamic will be in the relationship between Alonso and Gonzalo. In our version, we have made Gonzalo a dishonest old councilor to Alonso. He works with Prospero who has bribed him into thinking that he will help Gonzalo overthrow Alonso to become king. The second power dynamic is now between Gonzalo and Prospero. Prospero acts like he is helping Gonzalo when really, he is feeding off of all the information Gonzalo is giving him in order to overthrow Alonso and become king himself. These both show power dynamics with Gonzalo wanting power over Alonso, and Prospero actually now having power over Gonzalo, while trying to have power over Alonso as well. The third and fourth power dynamics are between Ferdinand, Miranda, and Caliban. Since Caliban has been Prospero's slave, he has been with Miranda as well for quite a while on the island and they fall in love. Miranda is already married to

Ferdinand, so he must fight him in order to be with his true love. Since Ferdinand is of royal status, he is being overthrown by a slave, who clearly has no power over him. After finally uniting with Miranda, Caliban must now fight with Prospero in order to gain freedom for himself as well as to be with Miranda. Prospero is Caliban's master, so of course going for his daughter would be a challenge against power that Caliban is willing to take. Our painting will show depictions of all of these power dynamics through the emotions that each character feels as they embark on gaining power over their respective rulers.

The methods we employed in realizing our project was using the background information of the character's. We figured that it would be creative and exciting to switch around the intentions of the character's who seemed to be somewhat faithful to their rulers, and make them want their own power over them. We worked on the storyline to make it intriguing and have plot twists while focusing on the power dynamics between the characters.

The audience we intend for our project is our classmates. We wanted to make *The Tempest* fun and shock our viewers with the way the character's betray their rulers as well as each other. The conditions we would want our classmates to encounter our project with is an open mind to try and figure out what the hidden power dynamics are just by viewing our painting without knowledge of the backstory. It would be interesting to see if from our visual representation, they can see the emotions and intent of each of the characters that were drawn. The process that led from the project's conception to its completion was a fun one. We enjoyed coming up with possible storylines for the characters as well as changing the character's roles in the story. Thinking about how to show the hidden intentions of each character through the

painting was also something that allowed us to use our creativeness, and we hope that everyone will enjoy the new story as much as we did.