

Davinder Singh

Professor Walker

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English 162W

Reflection

The purpose of this project was to re-create the story of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. The story itself contains several themes, which highlights the emergence of the Triangular Slave Trade. Our reinvented version portrays power dynamics and a social structure, which includes the minor characters gaining more power over the major characters. We used the background information of the characters to recreate the story and give them a new purpose.

We presented our idea through a painting to show a visual representation of Power dynamics. Prospero talks to Gonzalo telling him negative things about Alonso to overthrow him and become king. Prospero talks Gonzalo into his scheme and tells him he will make him king if he helps him against Alonso. Gonzalo believing him shares all of Alonso's secrets with Prospero. With his desire for power and revenge, Prospero will take any steps to get back at him. Another scenario, which depicts the power dynamic in the story, is when Caliban falls in love with Miranda because of the time they spent together on the island, but has to fight Ferdinand in order to be with her. Miranda being Prospero's daughter and Caliban being Prospero's slave cause many obstacles for them to overcome. Since Ferdinand is the king's son, being overthrown by a slave who has no power at all does not look right. After he successfully defeats Ferdinand to be with Miranda, Caliban has to gain freedom for him and her by fighting with Prospero.

We tried to create our own story while continuing to go along with the main point of power dynamics that were similar to the original play. For example, the power dynamics between Prospero and his brother, where Antonio overthrows his brother to be in favor of the king. To come up with a creative piece, we thought the viewers and readers of the book would enjoy a twist to the story, but not fully changing the story so it is easy to understand.

With our painting, we want the audience to analyze it and see if they can interpret the story by just observing their emotions. We wanted them to interpret the painting in their own way and try to correctly understand the message behind it. We all decided on the main idea of the story, what to paint and what emotions to show so it is easy to understand for the viewers. We showed Caliban tied to a rock facing Ferdinand and Miranda but are helpless because of his status as a slave and Ferdinand being the king's son, while Miranda is Prospero's son. Some viewers might interpret the story differently as to what our main purpose was. I think doing a painting over a paper for this book was interesting and something different. Working collaboratively with our group members, we all contributed to the painting with different ideas and stories. This project also helped me see the actual story better and understand what the characters' intentions were.