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Aaliyah Evans

English 161W

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### Reflection: Tempest

I have chosen to paint a piece based on the abstract expressionism movement that depicts my understanding and interpretation of the relationship between Ariel and Caliban. By using the texts “A Tempest” by Aime Cesaire and William Shakespeare’s “The Tempest” I was able to see how Cesaire’s interpretation of the original Shakespeare work reflects more than just simple character analysis but how they represent society itself.

Painting is a prevalent and celebrated art form of that has withstood the tests of time and is just as expressive today as it was when *The Tempest* was conceived. Because of this I saw painting as the most befitting method for expressing my thoughts. Painting is a hobby that helps me recreate the world as I interpret it for the speculation of others thus I felt I could most efficiently do the same for works of literature that I read.

I intend my audience to be mixed with those who have and have not read the readings associated with the painting. The entire audience however would be influenced by colonialism as either the oppressor or the oppressed, the privileged and the disadvantaged. I would prefer the conditions of the spectator to be interest due to occasion rather than simple happenstance. So those who see the painting know why they are looking at it so that they are able to scrutinize and critique it as they wish.

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My painting was inspired by abstract expressionist artists like Newman and Louis. More specifically, Newman's *Onement* made in 1948. Newman's work features a signature "zip" that is a vertical line that crosses the entire canvas and signifies a duality in life. The duality can be light or dark, good and bad, anything is up for interpretation. I have my own version of the zip painted in red. That partially spans the canvas showing the opposite sides the thought process of freedom, it in theory divides Caliban and Ariel. The reason my line doesn't cross the canvas and instead takes root in the base of the scene is because at the root of the narrative Caliban and Ariel are very much the same and the divided disintegrates. The lighter shade of brown, yellow ochre, strokes represent Ariel and the darker shade, raw umber, represents Caliban. This was inspired by my own visual depiction of Ariel and Caliban as being of African ancestry which is a point made by Aime Cesaire.