

Alexia Panayiotou

ENGL 162 W- 08

Prof. Walker

November 15, 2017

Reflection Questions

Throughout this play there is a theme of illusion. The illusion of possessing more power than anyone else and the illusion of being real. My project shows the illusion of realness that Prospero establishes in the play. Its purpose is to exemplify that scene. An illusion is a difficult concept to wrap one's brain around just by reading what is going on. By giving the scene a physical form, it makes it easier to grasp. I decided to use mirrors instead of people as an audience to enhance the concept of an illusion. It is something you see but not always what you think it is. Just like in a mirror you see yourself physically but not any of your thoughts or who you really are, you can always dress up as someone else and look into a mirror or your representation may not describe who you are as a person. Prospero makes this a key part when he decides to come out of character to describe his thoughts. When looking into the mirror, the actor sees himself on stage dressed up as a character, but that is not truly him. Beneath the costume is him. What he sees is not truly a real person. It is a fictional character.

The mirrors represent the fact that once Prospero leaves the stage, there is nothing to reflect just the surroundings. Prospero states "these our actors, as I foretold you, were all spirits and are melted into air, into thin air". There will be no reflection of anything once the

costume is taken off. It is the audience or mirrors in this case, that create the illusion of this character in the play. It is that makes the fictional characters come to life.

The methods I used to come up with this aspect was writing down ideas and important concepts that were in the play. The scene of Prospero realizing himself, was the one I found to be the most interesting and decided to stick with it. I then wrote down ideas of how to represent this. An actor comes to life when one sees them perform. By using mirrors, the actors see themselves. Showing them their realness, showing them an existing, real person with their own eyes. They play the audience and their character. They are the ones that make themselves the character and the audience I intended for my project is anyone since I decided to add a quote from the play that establishes the concept I am trying to demonstrate.

The process that led from the projects conception to its completion was to try and figure out a way to make "realizing one's self" in which Prospero did, as a physical display. The only way someone can "realize their existence" literally is if they see themselves through a reflection, therefore I decided to make an ordinary set with a twist of instead of having people making one realize themselves, having themselves (the actors) realize themselves using mirrors. When one walks away from the mirror, it is clear that they are not there anymore. No one is there. It is an empty reflection. When Prospero looks in the mirror, he sees himself in his costume. He is real. He is there physically. When he moves off stage when then the play is over, the only thing reflected in the mirror is the set. The empty set without anyone on it. He takes off his costume and the character he once portrayed is not there any longer. His reflection now is not "Prospero" it is the actor that once played that role.