

The Island's Despair

Your life you owe me

My desire to taste love

Prospero a thief

Escape this island I must

You stole this island!

Waiting for my chance to love

Prospero, vanquish!

Oh Ferdinand, marry me

Give me my home back!

Our desire, freedom!

I shall set things right

I now want to become old

Surrender magic,

And forgive those who done wrong

Now, let us go home

The Island's Despair is my interpretation of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. In my poem, I decided to emphasize the burdens of this island. I mainly wanted to focus on Caliban and Miranda's struggles. The island is Caliban's rightful home. When Prospero was exiled onto this island, Caliban was the one who showed Prospero the ins and outs of the island. Prospero then took control of the island and made Caliban his slave. Caliban grew hatred for Prospero because Prospero used him, stole his property, and then turned him into a slave. Caliban despised Prospero and wanted his island back. Miranda was Prospero's daughter who was forced to go into exile to the island with her father. Isolated from the outside world, she fantasizes on leaving the island and living a life like a normal person. Growing up she has read stories and heard her father's stories, hoping for the day she can make her own stories. Miranda had an extra interest in love. She wished that one day she would be able to love someone who would love her too.

I designed my poem as a sort of extended haiku. The bold lines represent Caliban, the underlined lines represent Miranda, the underlined and bold line represent Caliban and Miranda, and the normal lines represent Prospero. Initially I was going to write 3 separate poems, one for each character. Instead, I thought it would be interesting to combine all 3 into one poem. I thought it would emphasize common themes. I wanted to emphasize how Caliban and Miranda share a common feeling of despair by staying on the island. Caliban wanted his home and his title as a human rather than a slave back. Miranda did not want to be on the island since she was forced to live there, and she could not leave. Both were in two different situations, but both felt constrained to island because of Prospero. Another theme I wanted to emphasize was freedom, which Caliban and Miranda desired in their respective situations. At the end of the poem, I mention how Prospero abandons his magic, frees everyone, and brings everyone back to Italy, in a way freeing everyone from their chains.

The methods I employed in realizing my project was a lot of brainstorming. I wanted to reinterpret *The Tempest* and create it into my own narrative. I was aware that there were infinite ways I could have reinterpret and created my own narrative. Eventually, I realized I wanted to use a poem to reinterpret and narrate *The Tempest*.

The audience I intend for my project are people who have actually read *The Tempest*. The conditions that influenced who my audience would be is that my poem builds on the themes and characters of *The Tempest*, so knowing background information on the book, the setting, and the characters is important for the audience in order to understand the poem.

The process that led from the project's conception to its completion initially began with choosing what form of writing I would use to reinterpret the text. After I decided I would write a poem, I had to choose what part of the text I really wanted to focus on. To me the biggest theme in the text were despair. The characters Caliban and Miranda both carry extreme despair and Prospero and the island were the two common factors in their despair. Initially I wanted to write a poem expressing Caliban's despair, another expressing Miranda's, and how or what Prospero did to resolve it. I thought it would be interesting to find a way to infuse both Caliban and Miranda's despair into one poem and then mention Prospero's resolution at the end.