# Checkpoint Task

# Reading Shakespeare Checkpoint Task

## Task 1 The Tempest

Carefully read the following extract and answer the questions which follow.

CALIBAN O Setebos, these be brave spirits indeed!

How fine my master is! I am afraid

He will chastise me.

SEBASTIAN Ha, ha!

What things are these, my lord Antonio?

Will money buy 'em?

ANTONIO Very like; one of them

Is a plain fish, and, no doubt, marketable.

PROSPERO Mark but the badges of these men, my lords,

Then say if they be true. This mis-shapen knave,

His mother was a witch, and one so strong

That could control the moon, make flows and ebbs,

And deal in her command without her power.

These three have robb'd me; and this demi-devil -

For he's a bastard one - had plotted with them

To take my life. Two of these fellows you

Must know and own; this thing of darkness!

Acknowledge mine.

CALIBAN I shall be pinch'd to death.

ALONSO Is not this Stephano, my drunken butler?

SEBASTIAN He is drunk now: where had he wine?

ALONSO And Trinculo is reeling ripe: where should they

Find this grand liquor that hath gilded 'em?

How camest thou in this pickle?

TRINCULO I have been in such a pickle since I

saw you last that, I fear me, will never out of

my bones: I shall not fear fly-blowing.

SEBASTIAN Why, how now, Stephano!

STEPHANO O, touch me not; I am not Stephano, but a cramp.

PROSPERO You'ld be king o' the isle, sirrah?

STEPHANO I should have been a sore one then.

ALONSO This is a strange thing as e'er I look'd on.

*[Pointing to Caliban]*

PROSPERO He is as disproportion'd in his manners

As in his shape. Go, sirrah, to my cell;

Take with you your companions; as you look

To have my pardon, trim it handsomely.

CALIBAN Ay, that I will; and I'll be wise hereafter

And seek for grace. What a thrice-double ass

Was I, to take this drunkard for a god

And worship this dull fool!

PROSPERO Go to; away!

1. How do the attitudes of the courtiers suggest the dangers for Caliban if he were to leave the island? [5 marks]
2. What does Prospero’s explanation of Caliban’s history reveal about his attitude towards him?

[5 marks]

1. How do Stephano and Trinculo create humour in this scene? [5 marks]
2. How does Caliban’s language show his changed response to Prospero? Use quotation to support your answer and compare this extract to an earlier part of the play. [10 marks]

1. Who do you sympathise with in this scene: Prospero or Caliban? [5 marks]

## Task 2 A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Explain how the lovers’ feelings have changed between Act 1 and Act 3 by looking at the language they use in the two extracts below.

You should consider:

* what has happened in between the two scenes to make the feelings of the lovers change
* how their language in the extracts show their feelings
* how the audience may respond to these scenes in performance.

Act 1 Scene 1

HELENA …O, teach me how you look, and with what art

You sway the motion of Demetrius’ heart.

HERMIA I frown upon him; yet he loves me still.

HELENA O that your frowns would teach my smiles such skill!

HERMIA I give him curses; yet he loves me still.

HELENA O that my prayers could such affection move!

HERMIA The more I hate, the more he follows me.

HELENA The more I love, the more he hateth me.

HERMIA His folly, Helena, is no fault of mine.

HELENA None but your beauty; would that fault were mine.

HERMIA Take comfort; he shall no more see my face;

Lysander and myself will fly this place.

Before time I did Lysander see

Seem’d Athens as a paradise to me;

O then what graces in my love do dwell

That he hath turn’d a heaven unto a hell!

Act 3 Scene 2

LYSANDER Stay, gentle Helena! Hear my excuse:

My love, my life, my soul, fair Helena!

HELENA O excellent!

HERMIA Sweet, do not scorn her so.

DEMETRIUS If she cannot entreat, I can compel.

LYSANDER Thou canst compel no more than she entreat.

Thy threats have no more strength than her weak prayers.

Helen, I love thee; by my life, I do.

I swear by that which I will lose thee not.

DEMETRIUS I say I love thee more than he can do.

LYSANDER Away, you Ethiope!

DEMETRIUS No, no! He’ll seem

To break loose; take on, as you would follow,

But yet come not: you are a tame man, go!

LYSANDER Hang off, thou cat, thou burr! Vile thing, let loose,

Or I will shake thee from me like a serpent.

HERMIA Why are you grown so rude? What change is this,

Sweet love?

LYSANDER Thy love! Out tawny Tartar, out!

Out, loathed medicine! Hated potion, hence!

HERMIA Do you not jest?

HELENA Yes, sooth; and so do you.

## Task 3 Macbeth

In the extract below, Macbeth has just learned that he has been made Thane of Cawdor.

What is the effect of the very different reactions of Macbeth and Banquo to the prophecies of the witches?

You should consider:

* how they show different attitudes to the witches and the supernatural
* Shakespeare’s use of soliloquy to reveal Macbeth’s state of mind
* the significance of kingship and inheritance in the world of the play.

MACBETH *Aside.*

Glamis, and Thane of Cawdor:

The greatest is behind.

*To ROSS and ANGUS.*

Thanks for your pains.

*To BANQUO.*

Do you not hope your children shall be kings,

When those that gave the thane of Cawdor to me

Promised no less to them?

BANQUO That trusted home

Might yet enkindle you unto the crown,

Besides the thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange:

And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,

The instruments of darkness tell us truths,

Win us with honest trifles, to betray's

In deepest consequence.

Cousins, a word, I pray you.

MACBETH *Aside.*

Two truths are told,

As happy prologues to the swelling act

Of the imperial theme. - I thank you, gentlemen.

*Aside.*

This supernatural soliciting

Cannot be ill, cannot be good: if ill,

Why hath it given me earnest of success,

Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:

If good, why do I yield to that suggestion

Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair

And make my seated heart knock at my ribs,

Against the use of nature? Present fears

Are less than horrible imaginings:

My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,

Shakes so my single state of man that function

Is smother'd in surmise, and nothing is

But what is not.

Look, how our partner's rapt.

## Task 4 Romeo and Juliet

1. Referring to the extract below, how does the language Juliet uses convey her conflicting feelings at this point in the play?
2. Choose two further extracts of up to 12 lines each from the play and explain how the language in them conveys strong feelings of love or hate.

NURSE Tybalt is gone, and Romeo banished

Romeo that kill’d him, he is banished

JULIET O God, did Romeo’s hand shed Tybalt’s blood?

NURSE It did, it did, alas the day, it did!

JULIET O serpent heart, hid with a flow'ring face!

Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave?

Beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical!

Dove-feathered raven, wolvish-ravening lamb!

Despised substance of divinest show!

Just opposite to what thou justly seem'st,

A damned saint, an honourable villain!

O, nature, what hadst thou to do in hell

When thou didst bower the spirit of a fiend

In mortal paradise of such sweet flesh?

Was ever book containing such vile matter

So fairly bound? O that deceit should dwell

In such a gorgeous palace!