

**Key Diagrams**



**Above:** Children's Shakespeare Festival: ensemble performance on stage at the Lowry Theatre where the festival takes place.

**Key Facts about the play**

- 1) The Tempest was the last play written by William Shakespeare in 1610-1611.
- 2) The story is set on a remote island, where the sorcerer Prospero, a complex and contradictory character, lives with his daughter Miranda, and his two servants — Caliban, a savage monster figure, and Ariel, an airy spirit.
- 3) The Tempest comes from the name of the storm conjured by the spirits of the island on the orders of Prospero. A ship is caught in the storm, and is destroyed. But the storm is a magical creation carried out by the spirit Ariel, and caused by the magic of Prospero, who was the Duke of Milan, before his dukedom was usurped and taken from him by his brother Antonio (aided by Alonso, the King of Naples).
- 4) Prospero brings the passengers of the ship, including his brother Antonio, onto the island to extract revenge.
- 5) The play explores many themes including magic, betrayal, revenge, romance and family.

**Vocabulary**

<b>Play</b>	A play is form of literature written by a playwright, usually consisting of dialogue or singing between characters, intended for theatrical performance rather than just reading.
<b>Theatre</b>	A building or outdoor area in which plays and other dramatic performances are given.
<b>Tragedy</b>	A play which has a sad ending; everything 'falls apart' for the main character(s)
<b>Comedy</b>	A play with an upbeat happy ending; everything 'comes together' for the main character(s)
<b>Script</b>	The written text of a play which shows, as well as well as dialogue, stage directions and movements.
<b>Ensemble</b>	A group of musicians, actors, or dancers who perform together as one unit.
<b>Chorus</b>	A group of people who say the same thing at the same time.
<b>Stage Direction</b>	An instruction in the text of a play indicating the movement, position, or tone of an actor, or the sound effects and lighting.
<b>Cue</b>	Any change of lighting, sound or music made by the technical team in a play. Often gives indication to performers about when to speak or transition within the scene.
<b>Soliloquy</b>	The act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when alone; especially by a character in a play.



**Left:** Poster advertising The 2019 Children's Shakespeare Festival.