

FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

# *The Tempest*

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

WITH DETAILED NOTES  
FROM THE WORLD'S  
LEADING CENTER FOR  
SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

EDITED BY BARBARA A. MOWAT  
AND PAUL WERSTINE

## ACT 1

---

### Scene 1

*A tempestuous noise of thunder and lightning heard.*

*Enter a Shipmaster and a Boatswain.*

MASTER Boatswain!

BOATSWAIN Here, master. What cheer?

MASTER Good, speak to th' mariners. Fall to 't yarely,  
or we run ourselves aground. Bestir, bestir!

*He exits.*

*Enter Mariners.*

BOATSWAIN Heigh, my hearts! Cheerly, cheerly, my 5  
hearts! Yare, yare! Take in the topsail. Tend to th'  
Master's whistle.—Blow till thou burst thy wind, if  
room enough!

*Enter Alonso, Sebastian, Antonio, Ferdinand, Gonzalo,  
and others.*

ALONSO Good boatswain, have care. Where's the Mas- 10  
ter? Play the men.

BOATSWAIN I pray now, keep below.

ANTONIO Where is the Master, boatswain?

BOATSWAIN Do you not hear him? You mar our labor.  
Keep your cabins. You do assist the storm.

GONZALO Nay, good, be patient. 15

BOATSWAIN When the sea is. Hence! What cares these

17. **roarers:** i.e., roaring waves (Literally, **roarers** were riotous bullies.)

23. **work . . . present:** perhaps, make the present moment peaceful

24. **hand:** handle, lay hold of

27. **hap:** happen, chance

29-30. **Methinks:** It seems to me

30-31. **he hath . . . gallows:** Proverbial: "He who is born to be hanged will not be drowned." **complexion:** appearance (as a reflection of character)

33. **doth little advantage:** i.e., gives us little help

36. **Bring her to try:** i.e., make the ship sail close to the wind; **main course:** i.e., mainsail

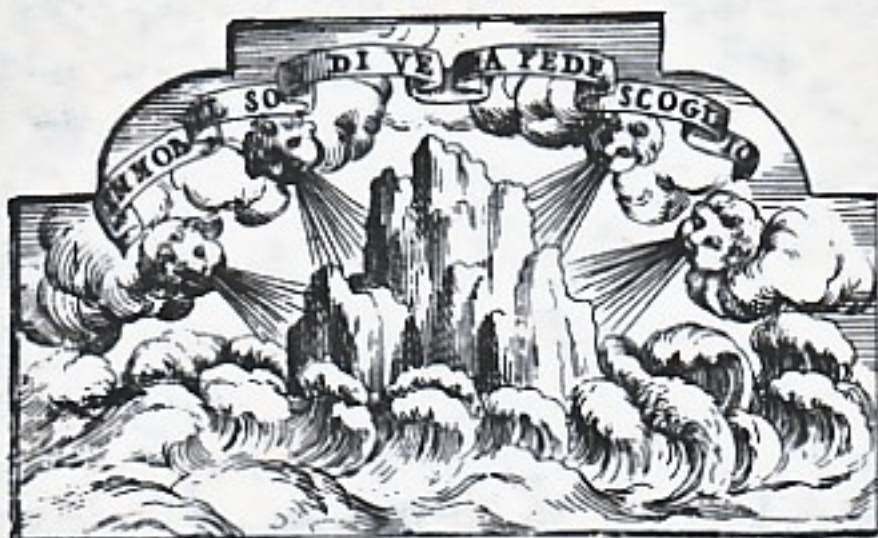
37. **A plague upon:** i.e., curses on

38. **office:** i.e., the noise we make in trying to save the ship (literally, duty, assignment)

39. **give o'er:** give up

41. **A pox o':** i.e., curses on

42. **incharitable:** i.e., uncharitable



"Blow till thou burst thy wind." (1.1.7)  
From Lodovico Dolce, *Imprese nobili* . . . (1583).

roarers for the name of king? To cabin! Silence!  
Trouble us not.

GONZALO Good, yet remember whom thou hast  
aboard. 20

BOATSWAIN None that I more love than myself. You are  
a councillor; if you can command these elements  
to silence, and work the peace of the present, we  
will not hand a rope more. Use your authority. If  
you cannot, give thanks you have lived so long, and 25  
make yourself ready in your cabin for the mis-  
chance of the hour, if it so hap.—Cheerly, good  
hearts!—Out of our way, I say! *He exits.*

GONZALO I have great comfort from this fellow. Me-  
thinks he hath no drowning mark upon him. His 30  
complexion is perfect gallows. Stand fast, good  
Fate, to his hanging. Make the rope of his destiny  
our cable, for our own doth little advantage. If he be  
not born to be hanged, our case is miserable.

*He exits* [with Alonso, Sebastian,  
and the other courtiers.]

*Enter Boatswain.*

BOATSWAIN Down with the topmast! Yare! Lower, low- 35  
er! Bring her to try wi' th' main course. (*A cry  
within.*) A plague upon this howling! They are  
louder than the weather or our office.

*Enter Sebastian, Antonio, and Gonzalo.*

Yet again? What do you here? Shall we give o'er and  
drown? Have you a mind to sink? 40

SEBASTIAN A pox o' your throat, you bawling, blasphe-  
mous, incharitable dog!

BOATSWAIN Work you, then.

ANTONIO Hang, cur, hang, you whoreson, insolent  
noisemaker! We are less afraid to be drowned than 45  
thou art.

# FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

## THE WORLD'S LEADING CENTER FOR SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

### *Each edition includes:*

- Freshly edited text based on the best early printed version of the play
- Full explanatory notes conveniently placed on pages facing the text of the play
  - Scene-by-scene plot summaries
  - A key to famous lines and phrases
- An introduction to reading Shakespeare's language
- An essay by an outstanding scholar providing a modern perspective on the play
- Illustrations from the Folger Shakespeare Library's vast holdings of rare books

*Essay by* Barbara A. Mowat

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., is home to the world's largest collection of Shakespeare's printed works, and a magnet for Shakespeare scholars from around the globe. In addition to exhibitions open to the public throughout the year, the Folger offers a full calendar of performances and programs. For more information, visit [www.folger.edu](http://www.folger.edu).

**TEACHERS: LESSON PLANS FOR THIS PLAY ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.FOLGER.EDU](http://WWW.FOLGER.EDU). TO RECEIVE A CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR THIS PLAY, EMAIL YOUR REQUEST TO [FOLGER.MARKETING@SIMONANDSCHUSTER.COM](mailto:FOLGER.MARKETING@SIMONANDSCHUSTER.COM). PLEASE SPECIFY PDF OR PRINT VERSION.**



MEET THE AUTHORS, WATCH VIDEOS AND MORE AT  
**SimonandSchuster.com**  
THE SOURCE FOR READING GROUPS

Cover design by Jeanne M. Lee

ISBN: 978-0-7434-8283-7



9 780743 482837

\$5.99 U.S./\$6.99 Can.

50599



PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.