

Prospero's Library: Y3/4 Reading Comprehension

This is a tale of power, magic and revenge, set a long time ago. Far away in Italy, city called Milan and it was ruled by a clever Duke named Prospero. Everyone loved Prospero, and they also loved his beautiful wife. When the couple had a daughter, Miranda, the whole city was so happy for them. A huge celebration took place. There was wonderful drink and great food. It seemed that life could not get any better. And that was true...it could only get worse! Which it did, when Prospero's wife sadly died.

1. Where does this story begin?
2. Who was Prospero?
3. 'Everyone loved Prospero' Which word tells us that the people of Milan liked Prospero?
4. What was Prospero's daughter called? *Circle the correct name*

Rahima Alfie Miranda Katie

After the death of his wife, Prospero fell into a state of sadness and, as a result, Milan became a sad, sombre city. Prospero locked himself away in the library, deep inside his palace, talking to no-one. One day, his brother, Antonio came to him: "Prospero, you **MUST** stop this. The city needs you. Nobody is ruling, no one is making decisions. You have to become Duke again." Prospero sat silent, unspeaking, till, at last he whispered; "No. You do it....."

5. Where did Prospero lock himself after his wife died?
 6. What is Prospero's brother called? *Circle the correct name*
- Antonio Mario Steve Bob
7. Why did Prospero tell his brother to be Duke?



Inside the library Prospero started learning a new skill. He read books and books. Books all about magic!

At the same time, Antonio was finding that the people of Milan did not like and respect him. He was so annoyed. So, Antonio went to his old friend, King Alonso of Naples, and the two came up with a wicked plan to get rid of Prospero.

One night, when darkness had settled over the city, King Alonso and his troops grabbed Prospero and his baby girl, Miranda, and set them inside a small leaky boat. The boat should have sunk and that would have been the end of Prospero and Miranda. But a kind friend of Prospero's, Gonzalo, had hidden three things on board the boat to help Prospero: food, water and his spell book.

As the boat started sinking, Prospero quickly turned the pages. At last he found it: the spell of healing. He muttered under his breath, and with his finger, lightly touched each of the holes in the bottom of the boat. He repeated the spell, this time using it to mend the rips in the sail. Lastly, he turned the pages of the ancient book to find one more spell. Gently, he blew into the mended sail. It filled with a wind that blew them over the sea until, at last, they landed on a small island ...

1. What new skill was Prospero learning in his library?
2. Why was Antonio 'annoyed'?
3. Who did Antonio go to ask for help in getting rid of his brother?
4. Why do you think King Alonso and his troops waited until '*darkness had settled over the city*' before grabbing Prospero and Miranda?
5. What three things did Gonzalo hide on the boat to help Prospero?
6. 'Lastly, he turned the pages of the **ancient** book to find one more spell'. What is another word for **ancient**?