



The Primary
Shakespeare
Company

Act 4: Weddings and Washing Lines

There was a crashing and a stumbling and a blind blundering among the trees as the butler, the jester and the monster drew near the enchanter's house. They had followed the unseen musician through clinging bush and spiteful briar, through filthy with and stinking pool, they had lost their bottles, their tempers, and their wits, and were as foul and reeking as their thoughts.

"Prithee, my King, be quiet" warned Caliban, for they were almost at Prospero's dwelling, where murder was to be done. "Give me thy hand" belched Stephano, swaying horribly. "I do begin to have bloody thoughts!" The conspirators put their fingers to their lips, and tottered on. Suddenly Trinculo saw finery hanging, like executed courtiers, on a line: saw robes and gowns, hats like velvet puddings and wondrous cloaks fit for a duke or a bishop and instantly saw, in his muddy mind's eye, a Trinculo new made and marvellous beyond belief.

"Let it alone, thou fool; it is but trash!" Cried Caliban, alarmed; but it was too late. Stephano had been captivated, and was seeing a new Stephano, a glittering, magnificent and even kingly Stephano...

"Put off that gown, Trinculo!" He shouted, for the lowly jester had seized on the best one. "Let it alone!" Howled Caliban, as his companions began to squabble over the treasures. "Do the murder first!" But they were too busy fighting and struggling and thrusting heads into armholes and making gaudy ghosts with their waving arms, to heed the monsters warning.

Then came a sudden noise of horns and barking dogs. At once, head's came out of sleeves, like conjuror's eggs and glared palely. Where was the hunt, and who was quarry. In the a moment they knew. Out of the trees there came bounding, with savage eyes and hungry jaws, a pack of huge phantom hounds! The conspirators howled with terror and fled! Contemptuously, the huntsmen, Prospero and Ariel, urged on the dogs and watched the quarry run.

From Shakespeare Stories by Leon Garfield and Michael Foreman



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1. Match the correct name to the noun given to describe them

Butler

Trinculo

Jester

Caliban

Monster

Stephano

2. Who had they followed to get to where they were. Use a word/phrase from the text for your answer.

3. "Prithee, my King, be quiet" warned Caliban

a. Who is Caliban warning?

b. Why is he warning him?

4. Write down three things Trinculo saw hanging on a line

5. "Let it alone, thou fool; it is but trash!" cried Caliban, alarmed
Why is Caliban alarmed?

6. Why do you think Stephano and Trinculo ignored Caliban's warnings to stop?



Reading
Comprehension

Act 4: Weddings and Washing Lines

7. Then came a sudden noise of horns and barking dogs. At once, head's came out of sleeves, like conjuror's eggs and glared palely. Where was the hunt, and who was quarry?

Underline the phrase that describes the heads and faces of Trinculo and Stephano

8. Why did Trinculo, Stephano and Caliban run away? Use evidence from the text to support your answer

9. Were the 'barking dogs' real? Use evidence from the text to support your answer

10. Are you surprised that Trinculo and Stephano fell for the trick? Explain your answer