

# THE STORIES READERS

## 故 事 讀 本

Stories from Shakespeare's Plays

莎 氏 樂 曲 故 事

Annotated and with Questions by

T. T. EUGENE TSEU

THE COMMERCIAL PRESS, LTD.

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原 著 者 J. A. Hammerton

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## 編輯大意

- 一. 莎氏樂曲之傳世者共三十七篇。本書取其十六篇，演爲淺顯故事，以此十六篇樂曲尤膾炙人口，故其故事亦趣味濃厚也。
- 二. 故事中難解之詞句，與難讀之字音，均有中文註釋及讀音附載於本書之後。故本書用作教本或自修本均無不宜。
- 三. 本書文字流利曉暢，爲現代英文之極足資模楷者。學者熟讀深思，則於普通應用之字，所增既多，其於英文語法上亦自漸合彀率，不獨得一進讀莎氏樂曲原本之介紹已也。
- 四. 每一故事之後，附有問題十餘則至二十餘則，於全故事之要點，一一問及之。
- 五. 教師用本書爲教本時，每畢一故事之後，宜先令學生口述答語，次令學生將答語筆之於練習簿中，使於英語之語法及寫法，兩得練習，以期日有進步。
- 六. 學者自修此書時，亦宜按問自述其答語，並記之練習簿中，然後發書校正其錯誤，藉以自行練習英語之語法與作法。

## 莎 氏 小 傳

威廉·莎士比亞 (William Shakespeare) 生於一五六四年，卒於一六一六年，英國大詩人，亦曲劇家之鼻祖也。其生世不甚可考；今所知者，其父爲農家子，名約翰 (John)，以製手套爲業，母名美利·埃籐 (Mary Arden)，亦農家女也。父母初有小資產，然至莎氏成童時，已一無所有。莎氏幼時教育如何不可知；一五八二年始娶妻，妻名愛尼 (Anne)，後莎氏七年而卒。一五八三年生一女，曰蘇珊娜 (Susanna)；一五八五年復孿生一子一女，子名漢姆賁脫 (Hamlet)，女名裘提贊 (Judith)。此莎氏家庭之大略情形也。莎氏之加入梨園也，約在一五八七年赴倫敦之後。其與他人合編新劇及修改舊劇，則早在一五八九年或一五九〇年之際。至一五九三年之後，氏已不復與他人合編劇本，而專取他人所編之本，增刪修訂之；名言雋語，插入者多，一經更易，便成己作。自是以後，名譽日隆，遂執劇界之牛耳；然一時之人，並以詩人視之，不獨目爲編劇家之宗主也。莎氏之父卒於一六〇一年，其母卒於一六〇八年。一六一〇年以後，莎氏不復插足梨園矣。

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## STORIES





# THE STORIES READERS

## *The Story of*

### THE TEMPEST

1. Long ago, on a bare<sup>1</sup> and lonely island in the Mediterranean<sup>2</sup> Sea, there lived three people. One was a wise man, named Prospero,<sup>3</sup> who had with him his beautiful young daughter, Miranda.<sup>4</sup> The third was their servant, Caliban.<sup>5</sup> But, although there were only three people, Prospero had yet another servant—a fairy, or a “tricksy<sup>6</sup> sprite,” named Ariel.<sup>7</sup> Ariel loved his master dearly, because he had once been imprisoned<sup>8</sup> in the heart of a pine tree, and Prospero, who knew the secret<sup>9</sup> of many mysteries, had rescued<sup>10</sup> him from that strange prison, in which Ariel had been secured<sup>11</sup> by the magic of an old witch, named Sycorax,<sup>12</sup> who once lived on the island. Caliban was her son, a<sup>13</sup> creature so low and ugly as to be scarcely human.

2. It happened<sup>1</sup> that one day, when Miranda was looking out at the wild, storm-tossed<sup>2</sup> sea, she saw a vessel in<sup>3</sup> distress, and, knowing that her father had learned the secrets of magic<sup>4</sup> power, she begged him to calm<sup>5</sup> the sea and save the poor sailors from the death. But he answered that he himself had caused<sup>6</sup> that very storm to rise, and calmed<sup>7</sup> her fears by promising that

nobody would be drowned.<sup>8</sup> The story which he then told her was strange indeed.

3. "Twelve years ago," said he, "I was the Duke<sup>1</sup> of Milan, but I cared nothing for wealth and power and fame. I was happiest<sup>2</sup> only when with my little child and my books. My brother, your uncle Antonio,<sup>3</sup> to whom I left the government<sup>4</sup> of the state, was not like me, and, greedy<sup>5</sup> of power and possessions, he wanted my dukedom<sup>6</sup> for himself. To<sup>7</sup> this end he went to the King<sup>8</sup> of Naples—then<sup>9</sup> an enemy of mine—and promised that, if the King would help him to steal<sup>10</sup> my lands, he would richly<sup>11</sup> reward him. It was so agreed, and one night these enemies of mine secured<sup>12</sup> both you and me, and hurried<sup>13</sup> us away into an old ship that could scarcely float. Happily, some good friend saw<sup>14</sup> that the boat contained<sup>15</sup> no lack of useful things, and, above<sup>16</sup> all, my beloved books, which have been of so great<sup>17</sup> comfort to us since our leaky<sup>18</sup> vessel floated to this uninhabited<sup>19</sup> island. And now the<sup>20</sup> tide of fortune is turning, for, by<sup>21</sup> means of the wisdom I have gained, my ancient enemies, all of whom are in that<sup>22</sup> storm-tossed ship, will soon be delivered<sup>23</sup> into my hands."

4. Even while Prospero was talking, his fairy servant, Ariel, had made<sup>1</sup> himself invisible—for, of<sup>2</sup> course, he could<sup>3</sup> do anything that fairies do, and might even have crouched<sup>4</sup> inside a little girl's thimble. He beached<sup>5</sup> the ship in<sup>6</sup> less time than fifty sailors could have done it, and he brought<sup>7</sup> the crew to shore, though no one could tell how. He next took Ferdinand,<sup>8</sup> the son of the King

of Naples, apart<sup>9</sup> from the others, leading him to where Prospero and Miranda were—perhaps<sup>10</sup> just by whispering in his ear! There is no outwitting<sup>11</sup> a fairy like Ariel, unless<sup>12</sup> one is a witch, like Sycorax.

5. As soon as Miranda set<sup>1</sup> eyes upon the Prince, she fell in love with him. And he<sup>2</sup>—well, he<sup>3</sup> thought he would never be happy without<sup>4</sup> her. Prospero noted<sup>5</sup> this, and was delighted; but he desired to test<sup>6</sup> Ferdinand's love, and pretended<sup>7</sup> at<sup>8</sup> first to treat him as a spy.

6. In another part of the island, the King of Naples and his companions<sup>1</sup> rescued from the ship were lying<sup>2</sup> asleep, but the King's own brother, Sebastian,<sup>3</sup> and Antonio, the usurper<sup>4</sup> of the dukedom of Milan, were awake, and plotting<sup>5</sup> to kill the King, in order that they might obtain his possessions if they got back to Italy. But they reckoned<sup>6</sup> without the tricky Ariel, whose wise master had sent him to watch<sup>7</sup> over the King. The lively but invisible<sup>8</sup> little sprite sang in the ear of Gonzalo,<sup>9</sup> the kind old nobleman who had provided<sup>10</sup> Prospero with his books and valuables<sup>11</sup> when he was sent<sup>12</sup> adrift, and this was what he sang:

While you<sup>13</sup> here do snoring lie,

Open-ey'd<sup>14</sup> conspiracy

His time doth take.

If<sup>15</sup> of life you keep a care,

Shake<sup>16</sup> off slumber and beware.

Awake! Awake!

7. Up started Gonzalo, then the King awakened, and they decided to set<sup>1</sup> out to look for Ferdinand. So the

evil<sup>2</sup> designs of Sebastian and Antonio were ruined<sup>3</sup> by Ariel, who led the company to a cave, outside of which Prospero had drawn a magic<sup>4</sup> circle.

8. When they were all standing<sup>1</sup> spell-bound within this magic circle, Prospero, dressed<sup>2</sup> in the rich clothes he had brought from Milan, appeared before them. His old enemies were in<sup>3</sup> doubt as<sup>4</sup> to whether this might not be his spirit, but he told them his strange story, and said that he forgave<sup>5</sup> them freely.

9. The King of Naples now told Prospero that he had lost<sup>1</sup> his son on the island, and Prospero, smiling, said that he had just lost his daughter. Then, leading<sup>2</sup> the party into the cave, he showed them Ferdinand and Miranda playing<sup>3</sup> happily together at chess.

10. So<sup>1</sup> pleased was Prospero with the<sup>2</sup> good services of Ariel that he set the faithful fairy free before the whole party sailed away for the wedding<sup>3</sup> of Prince Ferdinand and Miranda.

### QUESTIONS

1. Three people lived on a bare and lonely island in the Mediterranean Sea. Who were they?
2. Who was Ariel? Why did he love Prospero dearly?
3. When Miranda looked out at the wild, storm-tossed sea, what did she see? By whom was the storm caused?
4. What kind of a man was Miranda's uncle Antonio?
5. How did Antonio usurp Prospero's dukedom?

6. Besides the crew, whom did Ariel take to where his master and Miranda were?
7. With whom did Miranda fall into love?
8. Who was Sebastian? What did he plot to do with Antonio?
9. Who was Gonzalo? What did Ariel sing in his ear?
10. What did Prospero do when his enemies were standing spell-bound within the magic circle?
11. What did the King of Naples see in the cave?
12. When did Prospero set Ariel free?

*The Story of*

## THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

1. There were two gentlemen in the town of Verona,<sup>1</sup> named Valentine<sup>2</sup> and Proteus,<sup>3</sup> who were friends and close<sup>4</sup> companions, until one of them fell<sup>5</sup> in love with a lady of Verona named Julia.<sup>6</sup> It was Proteus who had fallen in love, and that<sup>7</sup> was quite a good<sup>8</sup> reason for his refusing to accompany Valentine on his travels, though perhaps not so good a reason for Valentine to make<sup>9</sup> fun of him. So Valentine set out on his travels alone, going<sup>10</sup> first to Milan.

2. Meanwhile, thanks<sup>1</sup> to an uncle of Proteus, the father of that<sup>2</sup> young gentleman had been urged<sup>3</sup> to send his son away, so that, when he grew old, Proteus might<sup>4</sup> have no reason to regret that in his youth he had been a stay-at-home,<sup>5</sup> and neglected<sup>6</sup> to see the world. His father, Antonio,<sup>7</sup> therefore sent his son after Valentine to Milan, that he might<sup>8</sup> have the company of his friend, which he had before refused.

3. When Proteus got to Milan, the<sup>1</sup> comedy had begun, for, behold<sup>2</sup> Valentine, who had scoffed<sup>3</sup> at his friend for being in love with Julia, now himself deeply in love with Silvia,<sup>4</sup> the bewitching<sup>5</sup> daughter of the Duke<sup>6</sup> of Milan. And his<sup>7</sup> case was worse, for, being poor, he could not hope that the duke would let him marry his daughter; whereas Proteus was at<sup>8</sup> least in love with a<sup>9</sup> lady of his own station in life. Like Romeo<sup>10</sup> with his Juliet,

Valentine's only plan was to marry his Silvia without her father's consent,<sup>11</sup> and he had quite made<sup>12</sup> up his mind to climb<sup>13</sup> to her window and carry her away, when<sup>14</sup> Proteus overtook him in Milan.

4. Valentine's<sup>1</sup> scheme was quickly upset, for no<sup>2</sup> sooner had he disclosed<sup>3</sup> it to his friend than the<sup>4</sup> latter, on seeing the lovely Silvia, also fell in love with her, and began to forget his Julia left in Verona. Nay,<sup>5</sup> worse; he betrayed<sup>6</sup> Valentine's intentions to the duke.

5. The duke now wished to convict<sup>1</sup> Valentine of his intention to abduct<sup>2</sup> Silvia, without disclosing to him how he had come<sup>3</sup> by the knowledge of the plan. So, pretending<sup>4</sup> that he himself was in love with a widow of Milan, he asked Valentine what<sup>5</sup> he would advise him to do—rather a foolish question, one<sup>6</sup> might think, for a duke who had already been married to ask a young man who was still unwedded.<sup>7</sup> But the<sup>8</sup> wisdom of the duke lay in the fact that he<sup>9</sup> knew none to be so foolish as a young man in love.

6. Judge<sup>1</sup> if the duke was wise or foolish, when Valentine innocently<sup>2</sup> advised him to do exactly<sup>3</sup> what he had himself purposed<sup>4</sup> doing—to carry away the lady. He even lent the duke his own coat as<sup>5</sup> a disguise, and in the pocket of the coat the duke found a letter from Valentine addressed<sup>6</sup> to his own daughter.

7. This discovery gave<sup>1</sup> the duke an excuse for banishing Valentine from Milan, and he now set<sup>2</sup> about his own plans to marry Silvia with<sup>3</sup> all speed to a foolish young nobleman named Thurio;<sup>4</sup> but he enlisted<sup>5</sup> the services of

Proteus to<sup>6</sup> help forward the match, little thinking that Valentine's friend was himself in love with Silvia.

8. Proteus was expected to<sup>1</sup> give so poor an account of Valentine to Silvia, and so glowing<sup>2</sup> an account of Thurio, that the<sup>3</sup> maiden could<sup>4</sup> not but decide to<sup>5</sup> forget Valentine in favor of the foolish nobleman. But, of course, Proteus did<sup>6</sup> nothing of the kind. He made<sup>7</sup> his own suit to the lady, and plainly showed her that he was in love with her.

9. One night Proteus, with Thurio and some musicians,<sup>1</sup> came beneath the lattice<sup>2</sup> window of Silvia in the court of the palace, and sang a love<sup>3</sup> song to her.

10. But Silvia was not the only lady who heard this love song. Julia, no<sup>1</sup> longer able to endure the absence of her lover, had left Verona disguised as a page,<sup>2</sup> and, following Proteus to Milan, she had overheard this song.

11. When Proteus thinks himself alone, he declares<sup>1</sup> his love to Silvia, who comes to the window, but she chides<sup>2</sup> him for his faithlessness to his friend Valentine, to whom she declares herself betrothed;<sup>3</sup> and he tells her that both<sup>4</sup> the lady he loved at Verona and Valentine are dead, and pleads<sup>5</sup> to have Silvia's portrait. This<sup>6</sup> she promises him, saying that she is loath<sup>7</sup> to be worshipped by him, but since she believes him false, he is better<sup>8</sup> fitted "to<sup>9</sup> worship shadows and adore false shapes," meaning that he can admire her portrait, but need not admire herself, as she does not care for him. All this is overheard by Julia, who is hidden in the shadow.

12. Next day Proteus sends Julia—who, disguised as



a boy, has applied<sup>1</sup> to him to be employed as his page—for the portrait, and gives her a ring<sup>2</sup> to take to Silvia, the very ring Julia herself had given him before he left Verona. She is comforted<sup>3</sup> to find that Silvia rejects<sup>4</sup> his suit, and that she is displeased<sup>5</sup> with him for his faithlessness.

13. Silvia, true<sup>1</sup> to Valentine, has determined to escape from Milan, and, by<sup>2</sup> the aid of a courtier<sup>3</sup> named Eglamor,<sup>4</sup> she sets<sup>5</sup> off toward Mantua,<sup>6</sup> but in a forest they are set<sup>7</sup> upon by outlaws,<sup>8</sup> and Silvia is captured.

14. Happily, when Valentine had been banished from Milan, he, too, had fallen<sup>1</sup> in with these very outlaws, who spared<sup>2</sup> his life on his promising to become their leader, as they would be honored<sup>3</sup> by having a nobleman for their chief. So Silvia had fallen<sup>4</sup> into the hands of her own true love!

15. Her escape from Milan led to the duke and the others following<sup>1</sup> in pursuit, Julia going with the party as page to Proteus; and they, too, were set upon by the outlaws, the duke and Thurio being captured and brought<sup>2</sup> before Valentine. There they saw Silvia, and the foolish Thurio exclaimed: "Yonder<sup>3</sup> is Silvia, and Silvia's mine." But Valentine dared<sup>4</sup> him but to breathe her name, and the cowardly Thurio, seeing the<sup>5</sup> bold lover angry, and, knowing his own life was in<sup>6</sup> danger, forthwith changed<sup>7</sup> his tune to:

Sir Valentine, I dare<sup>8</sup> not for her, I;<sup>9</sup>

I hold him but a fool that will endanger<sup>10</sup>