**The Tempest ACT I**

*Directions: Answer all questions in complete sentences and in no less than 50 words each.*

1. Why is it significant that the play begins with a storm at sea?

2. Why does Miranda have such immediate empathy for the men in the ship yet such contempt for Caliban? Since we learn that she has lived on a deserted island with her father since childhood, where would she have learned these ideas of pity, mercy and hatred?

3. What does it mean that Prospero has to take off his robe, his magic garment, before he can tell Miranda about her history? What about Prospero’s story? Does he take any responsibility for what happened to him when explaining it to Miranda? Should he?

4. What crimes does Antonio, Prospero’s brother, commit? What motivates him? For which crimes is he most responsible? How do you judge him?

5. In Prospero’s questioning of Ariel, we learn that the storm is part of Prospero’s design. Does he want to punish the conspirators or lead them to repentance?

6. What is your reaction to Prospero’s treatment of Caliban? Does Caliban have a legitimate complaint against Prospero? Why does Prospero keep Caliban as his servant even when he despises him? Why do you think Caliban attempted to violate the honor of Miranda? Did he or is this the way his acts were interpreted by Prospero and Miranda?

7. Prospero is happy that when Miranda first sees Ferdinand she is immediately captivated by his appearance? Why? What is his plan?

8. Ferdinand and Miranda fall in love at first sight; Prospero says, “They have changed eyes.” Why does this seem feasible, given the emotional state of the two young people?

9. Alonso, the King of Naples and the father of Ferdinand (the eventual husband of Miranda), suffers a "sea-change" in Ariel's famous song of I.ii.397-405. "Of his bones are coral made: / Those are pearls that were his eyes: / Nothing of him that doth fade, But doth suffer a sea-change / Into something rich and strange." How is this sea-change brought about and how can one tie this event to alchemical or hermetic ideology?

10. One can see Prospero as a magician, but how does he fit into the role of alchemist?