

The Tempest

William Shakespeare

Why does Prospero move from a vanished entertainment to the claim that the world itself will dissolve?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The pageant dissolves
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Act IV, Scene I
START	Our revels now are ended.
END	We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep.
PASSAGE ID	sec-temp-01

THE MOVE

Move from a staged illusion to an argument about permanence

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Prospero begins with a vanished theatrical spectacle and expands the disappearance outward until towers, palaces, the globe, and human life all become temporary. The staged illusion serves as a small model for a much larger argument about impermanence.

MARK

Underline what has literally vanished from the stage. Circle each larger thing Prospero says will also dissolve. Draw arrows showing how the argument expands from performance to world to human life.

NOTICE

- What makes the pageant an especially useful starting point for the argument?
- How does the scale of what can disappear keep increasing?
- Why does 'we are such stuff as dreams are made on' sound different after the staged illusion has dissolved?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Prospero move from a vanished entertainment to the claim that the world itself will dissolve? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Prospero move from a vanished entertainment to the claim that the world itself will dissolve? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Prospero uses the vanished pageant as a small example of impermanence, then enlarges the same logic to buildings, the globe, and human life. The stage illusion becomes a model for reality's transience.
EVIDENCE	Trace the scale from performers/pageant to towers/palaces/world to human life.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Prospero thinks the world is literally a stage effect. Explain how the disappearance supplies an analogy for permanence.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

The Tempest

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Why does Prospero move from a vanished entertainment to the claim that the world itself will dissolve?

START ANCHOR	Our revels now are ended.
END ANCHOR	We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline what has literally vanished from the stage. Circle each larger thing Prospero says will also dissolve. Draw arrows showing how the argument expands from performance to world to human life.
2. NOTICE - What makes the pageant an especially useful starting point for the argument? How does the scale of what can disappear keep increasing? Why does 'we are such stuff as dreams are made on' sound different after the staged illusion has dissolved?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does Prospero move from a vanished entertainment to the claim that the world itself will dissolve?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.