

The Tempest

William Shakespeare

What kinds of responsibility can Prospero's 'I acknowledge mine' mean?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Prospero acknowledges Caliban
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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 V, Scene I
START	This mis-shapen knave, his mother was a witch;
END	this thing of darkness I acknowledge mine.
PASSAGE ID	sec-temp-04

THE MOVE

Interrogate responsibility inside an ambiguous claim of ownership

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Prospero's 'this thing of darkness I acknowledge mine' can mean ownership, responsibility, recognition of kinship, or admission that Caliban's history is connected to Prospero's rule. The ambiguity matters because each meaning assigns responsibility differently.

MARK

Circle the word 'mine.' In the margin, list at least two meanings it could carry—OWNS, CAUSED, RESPONSIBLE FOR, CONNECTED TO. Underline nearby details that support or resist each reading.

NOTICE

- What is Prospero literally claiming when he says 'mine'?
- What responsibilities might come with possession or rule even if Prospero rejects moral kinship with Caliban?
- Why is the line stronger if it remains ambiguous rather than resolving into one clean meaning?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What kinds of responsibility can Prospero's 'I acknowledge mine' mean? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What kinds of responsibility can Prospero's 'I acknowledge mine' mean? 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	'Mine' can mean possession, responsibility, authorship of the situation, or acknowledgment of connection. The ambiguity matters because each reading assigns Prospero a different kind of responsibility toward Caliban.
EVIDENCE	Use the phrase itself plus nearby context about Caliban's status and Prospero's rule. Strong answers test at least two meanings of 'mine.'
WATCH FOR	Do not force one definition too quickly. The lesson is about how the ambiguity keeps responsibility unsettled.
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.

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What kinds of responsibility can Prospero's 'I acknowledge mine' mean?

START ANCHOR	This mis-shapen knave, his mother was a witch;
END ANCHOR	this thing of darkness I acknowledge mine.

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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 - Circle the word 'mine.' In the margin, list at least two meanings it could carry—OWNS, CAUSED, RESPONSIBLE FOR, CONNECTED TO. Underline nearby details that support or resist each reading.
2. NOTICE - What is Prospero literally claiming when he says 'mine'? What responsibilities might come with possession or rule even if Prospero rejects moral kinship with Caliban? Why is the line stronger if it remains ambiguous rather than resolving into one clean meaning?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What kinds of responsibility can Prospero's 'I acknowledge mine' mean?
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.