

YORK NOTES ON

# THE TEMPEST

William Shakespeare



LONGMAN  
LITERATURE  
GUIDES



# Contents

<b>Part 1: Introduction</b>	<i>page</i> 5
The Elizabethan age	5
Historical background	5
Social background	6
William Shakespeare, 1564–1616	7
Background notes on Elizabethan drama	8
Contemporary dramatists	9
The Elizabethan theatre	10
Shakespeare's English	13
Shakespeare's plays	19
The nature of tragi-comedy	20
Title and history of <i>The Tempest</i>	21
A note on the text	22
<b>Part 2: Summaries</b>	23
A general summary	23
Detailed summaries	25
Concluding comments	50
<b>Part 3: Commentary</b>	53
The supernatural	53
Character evaluation	55
Poetic language	74
Concluding remarks	77
<b>Part 4: Hints for study</b>	79
Studying <i>The Tempest</i>	79
Answering questions	79
Specimen questions and suggested answer patterns	81
<b>Part 5: Suggestions for further reading</b>	87
The author of these notes	88