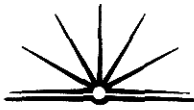


The context of William Shakespeare's The Tempest and the Excerpts; Jan Carstensen, Becky Jackey and Georg Neumann, from Tim Flannery's The Explorers shape the form and meaning of the text. Both texts deal with issues surrounding early explorers and the 'natural world', although each have different values associated with it.

The Tempest is one of Shakespeare's final plays and is classed as a tragic comedy. Shakespeare uses characterisation and dramatic elements such as mood, tension and symbolism to put an idea across to his audience about the 'brave new worlds'. He uses ~~the~~ characters, in particular, Prospero and Caliban to manipulate the audience's responses to the ideas set forth in the play.

Caliban is described as a 'waterbeast'. He is the wild creature that inhabits the island Prospero and his daughters are banished to. He represents the 'natural world' whilst Prospero represents the 'civilised world'.

Shakespeare played upon the fears of the people at the time. Explorers were discovering



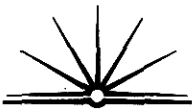
new lands and coming home with tales full of monsters and mysterious ~~new~~ forms of people.

Caliban was all these fears rolled into one, and by introducing him in Act One, Scene Two, Shakespeare had created maximum dramatic impact for his audience.

Not all though believe Caliban is a monstrous beast. Montaigne believed that by civilising Caliban, Prospero made him evil because society created morals. In nature, there is no right or wrong, just survival, therefore Caliban is not evil, he is natural.

It is true though that Caliban does possess a certain eloquence. When he becomes drunk he states - "I plague upon the tyrant I serve; I will show the best springs; pick tee berries; show the wood; I plague upon the tyrant I serve." This sarcasm shows a higher level thinking and brings out a poetic side to Caliban.

The final scenes are also important to the meaning of *The Tempest*. As a tragic comedy,

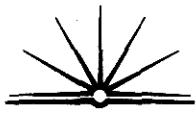


there is a ~~sense~~ sense of melancholy at the end of the play. This is because of three basic ideas; that Antonio remains unchanged, therefore the issues are unresolved; Prospero's admittance to himself that he will lose Miranda's innocence to marriage; and that Caliban, now half civilised will not fit in anywhere. He is too wild to return ~~to~~ to Milan, but too civilised to remain on the island.

This sense of disillusion is very important to the play as it reflects society's indecision about the real 'brave new world'.

The Explorers also examines ideals and expectations throughout Australia's exploring history. The three excerpts vary in their form and meaning but give a general overview of how our thinking has changed over time.

Jan Carstensen came to Australia in 1623 and described it as 'the most ~~is~~ miserable and wretched place I have ever seen in my age



a time.' He is very much like Prospero in his treatment of the aboriginal people, who he describes as 'coal black and stark naked'. Like ~~to~~ Prospero, he sees the natives (Caliban) as not human, more beast than man, looking for a way to manipulate this natural world for his own use.

Even through this pompous view he does really learn anything of 'their custom or ceremonies or even the number of them.'

Almost 230 years later, values have begun to change and we can see this in the transcript of Jockey Jockey, a native aboriginal who went on an expedition to Cape York.

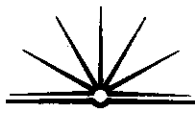
This extract tells a lot to us of how natives ~~are~~ <sup>were</sup> then treated by European ~~people~~ people. Jockey Jockey was fiercely devoted to Mr Kennedy, his European leader and ~~was~~ was with him until he died after native aboriginals attacked him. This extract tells us that although the Europeans still thought of the natives as lower than them,

they understood they were human beings and were to have some respect. This is shown through Jackey Jackey's references to Mr Kennedy. "Get your gun, Jackey, Jackey, shoot 'em, shoot 'em' so I turned; and tried to shoot 'em; but they speared Mr Kennedy in the side."

The fact that Mr Kennedy trusted Jackey Jackey with a gun proves that he had byalties for the native man as well. ~~we~~

we can, in a way, compare Jackey Jackey to Caliban, with his sense of dignity about him. Jackey Jackey was a 'wild man' who had become civilised.

George Neumayer was one of the Explorers who was very scientific and this relates to the 'new world' trying to conquer the 'old world'. By using his scientific equipment he was able to wade past the mystery of the unseen lands. We can see how this relates to Prospero, who used his and Ariel's magic to bring the new and old worlds to -



gether again.

In these two texts, both (and all) composers have used the context of the texts to shape the form and meaning. Both texts explore the values of the society and look at how the 'old world' (civilised) tried to manipulate and control the 'new world' (natural).