

Act 1: Storm at Sea: Writing a poem

WRITING
Poetry

Background/Context

Poetry is a type of literature that conveys a thought, describes a scene or tells a story in a concentrated, lyrical arrangement of words. You should use your voice and the words to create the dramatic effect so you will need to think about techniques like spacing, tone, articulation, rhythm, sound levels.

Act 1 of *The Tempest* opens with thunder and lightning-a storm at sea and a ship in danger. It is a great way to start a play or a story as immediately draws the audience and reader in- What is happening? Who is in danger/ Why?

The mariners-sailors- are understandably frightened for their lives. In the play they say

'All Lost! To Prayers, to prayers. All Lost!'

Here they are saying; it's all over, we know we're going to die so we are going to go and say our prayers now...

Task

To write a descriptive poetry, using similes and metaphors to conjure up the image of a storm to the audience/reader

REMEMBER

A metaphor is a word or a phrase used to describe something as if it were something else: For example, "A wave of terror washed over him." The terror isn't actually a wave, but a wave is a good way of describing the feeling.

A simile describes something by **comparing it to something else**, using like or as: The thunder claps as loud as a firing gun

1. Read the example poem: 'All Lost! To Prayers, to prayers, All Lost!'
2. Look at the paintings on the next page, 'Miranda-The Tempest by John Williams Waterhouse and A Shipwreck in the Stormy Seas by Joseph Vernet
3. Write down any words and imagery that you can think of. If it helps think of thunder, waves and wind as starting points, for example, dark waves, crashing thunder, wild wind
4. Listen to *Storm from Four Sea Interludes*, a piece of music that created a storm using musical sounds. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2X7JDvTarqQ>.
5. Whilst listening add words and imagery down on to the list you started.
6. Read back over the words and imagery you have and try to put them into similes and metaphors, for example *The gold lightning is like a crack down a wall. The wild wind is a shrill woman screaming*
7. Using your words and imagery either
 1. Use the template provided to write a poem about a storm at sea
 2. Use the themes of 'All Lost' poem to write your own three verse poem, describing the thunder, the wind and the waves or
 3. Write a piece of free verse about a storm at sea

When you have finished your poem, read aloud and edit (make any changes to make it even better).

Send your written (and if you like your filmed) poem to your class teacher who will submit it to PSC.



The Primary
Shakespeare
Company

WRITING
Poetry

'All Lost! To Prayers, to Prayers. All Lost!'

The thunder claps
As loud as a firing gun
A shattering earthquake
Like a beating drum,
All Lost! To Prayers, to prayers! All Lost!

The lightning strikes
As bright as the sun
A crack in the heavens
Like a flash of fire
All Lost! To Prayers, to prayers! All Lost!

The waves crash
As cold as ice
A whirlpool of death
Like a ferocious tiger
All Lost! To Prayers, to prayers! All Lost!

Paintings

WRITING Poetry



A Shipwreck in
Stormy Seas

Joseph Vernet

[https://
www.nationalg
allery.org.uk/
paintings/
claude-
joseph-vernet-
a-shipwreck-
in-stormy-
seas](https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/claude-joseph-vernet-a-shipwreck-in-stormy-seas)



Miranda-The
Tempest by
John William
Waterhouse

[https://
en.wikipedia.o
rg/wiki/
Miranda_\(The
Tempest\)#/
media/
File:Miranda -
The Tempest
JWW.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miranda_(The_Tempest)#/media/File:Miranda_-_The_Tempest_JWW.jpg)



Ideas page

WRITING
Poetry

