



The Tempest

Characterization in Julie Taymor's *The Tempest*

Characterization is the skill of interpreting and portraying a character. Films have some advantages over stage plays in characterization. Movie cameras can view the actors at very close range, allowing the audience to see minute changes in facial expression. Camera shots from different angles allow viewers to interpret the actors' body language. Other film crafts, such as music, sound effects, visual design, special effects, costumes, and makeup, can also contribute to the portrayal of characters.

Select one or more of the main characters from *The Tempest*. Complete a chart for each character you select. To complete the chart, review the text of Shakespeare's play. Make notes about the character and his or her key scenes. Then watch Julie Taymor's 2010 film adaptation of *The Tempest*. Answer the questions to explore characterization in the film.

Character: _____
<i>The Tempest</i> : Text
Character Description:
Key Scenes:

The Tempest: Film

What did the character in the film look like?

How was the actor's characterization similar to or different from the role as written by Shakespeare? Give specific examples to support your answer.

What did the actor's facial expressions and body language tell you about the character?

How did makeup, costume, lighting, and camera shots contribute to the characterization?

Do you think the actor played the role effectively? Why or why not?