

Introducing Caliban

The Tempest
Act 1 Scene 2

Using the descriptions of Caliban below, compose a vivid image of the character in your own words. Then, design a costume that the actor playing this part might wear.

- 'a thing most brutish'
- 'dull thing'
- 'hag-seed'
- 'moon-calf'
- 'thou tortoise'
- 'filth'
- 'lying slave'
- 'my slave'
- 'savage'
- 'thou earth'

- 'vile'
- 'malice'
- 'a very shallow monster'
- 'a freckled whelp, hag-born'
- 'this puppy-headed monster'
- 'a most scurvy monster'
- 'poisonous slave, got by the devil himself'
- 'a villain I do not love to look on'

Caliban's defense

After reading Caliban's speech beginning "This island's mine by Sycorax my mother," answer the following questions.

1. What does he say that makes him sound childish? Consider his different childlike qualities.
2. What makes him sound cruel?
3. Does Caliban have a defensible point?
4. What does he imply about himself and about Prospero when he says, 'and here you sty me'?