

BM1, WiSe 2008/09, ASSIGNMENT 2 – Analysing Drama

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together and with punch holes on the left, but not bound in any kind of folder or wrapping. Every assignment must include a “title-page” and the statement on plagiarism.

Analyse the following passage from *The Tempest* : Act I, Sc. 2, ll. 406-432

(NOTE: The text is specified according to the Arden edition, 3rd series, ed. V. Mason Vaughn and Alden T. Vaughn, from “The ditty does remember my drowned father ... ” to “... if the King of Naples heard thee?”

The “ditty” is Ariel’s song in lines 397-403)

Please analyse this text, addressing the following tasks and questions. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. Any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored. Also, there will be a deduction of at least 10% if your paper does not conform to the style sheet.

1. Close Analysis of the Passage:

(Bear in mind the connections between the following individual aspects.)

a) Divide the passage into sections and give a structured summary of it based on an analysis of the **communicative situation**. (20 points)

b) Characterisation: What do you find out about the three characters in this passage? In order to address this task, identify different modes of characterisation and analyse their effect. (30 points)

c) Rhetoric: Describe the different stylistic levels in the passage (state your evidence). At what points does the stylistic level change? How are these shifts connected to your findings in 1a and 1b? (20 points)

2. Looking at the Wider Context:

(You should build on your response to one or several of the earlier questions.)

a) (15 points) Name one other passage in the same play which corresponds or contrasts with the current passage **in one particular aspect** (e.g. communicative situation, characterisation etc.). Briefly describe the nature and significance of the correspondence or contrast.

b) (15 points) Indicate how one could give a wider significance to one of the themes in the passage (1.2.406-432) by discussing them in the light of your knowledge of the entire play. Possibilities include, but are not limited to:

- gender aspects
- politics and power
- humour and irony
- (mis)recognition
- ...