

The enjoyment of reading comes from engaging with the way composers reimagine texts by revealing their resonances and dissonances.

How does Atwood's Hag-Seed reveal the complexity of reconciliation in Shakespeare's The Tempest?

Universal human emotions are conveyed through reimagined and reframed texts in order to connect with increasingly modern audiences. Margaret Atwood as the reader of William Shakespeare's The Tempest (1610), explores the complexity of reconciliation through her novel Hag-Seed (2016). Atwood achieves this through the exploration of transcending human experiences of revenge and imprisonment.

Through the reimagining of Shakespeare's, The Tempest, Margaret Atwood allows contemporary responders to connect with the experiences of revenge in Hag-Seed. Atwood's Tony serves as a reimagined Antonio, while Felix represents Shakespeare's Prospero. In Act I of The Tempest, Prospero describes the island as a "cell", this holds negative connotations and reveals Prospero's angry and bitter nature towards the island. Given Antonio was the one who "usurped" Prospero, forcing him on to the island, the audience understands Prospero's motivations for revenge against Antonio. Atwood reimagines Prospero's narrative through Felix. Felix's motivations to get revenge against Tony are argued to be more genuine than that of Prospero's. Tony's "usurpation" of Felix represented the destruction of the last standing pillar in his life, the first being the death of his wife and daughter, thus allows contemporary audience to engage with the emotions and experiences of Felix, thus allowing them to enjoy the narrative. Antonio is revealed on stage by Shakespeare to be a true Machiavellian villain, where he promises King Alonso to "guard your person whole you take your rest, and watch your safety", juxtaposing Antonio's earlier plot to kill King Alonso, thus revealing Antonio as Machiavellian villain and encouraging Jacobean audiences to engage with the plot and form a strong dislike for Antonio. In contrast, Atwood's Tony is only described to the audience by Felix's 3rd person limited narration, this is evident through the allusion of Aesop's fable "he'd noted with distaste, the pattern of alternating hares and tortoises on Tony's red tie". Here Atwood reveals how villains can manifest in one's mind, thus adding a layer of complexity to Felix's revenge narrative. Prospero eventually regains his humanity as evident through the symbolic excerpt "I do forgive thy rankest fault", this is heavily influenced by Shakespeare's context of humanism and reconciliation. Atwood argues that forgiveness and reconciliation are not that simple, as evident through Felix's inability to let go of his anger and bitterness towards Tony. Atwood's symbolises this through, "as long as he keeps that video footage up in the cloud", Atwood argues that in realist, reconciliation is not a simple action, but complex. Therefore, Atwood reimagines and reject Shakespeare's conclusion of the protagonist's revenge narrative and adds complexity to it.

The experience of imprisonment is explored by Atwood through resonances and dissonances with Shakespeare's narrative of reconciliation. Atwood's 8Handz serves as a reimagined Ariel, while Felix represents Shakespeare's Prospero. In Act 1 of *The Tempest*, Prospero uses pathos of "Thou shalt be as free as mountain winds", to keep Ariel motivated to do his bidding. The concept of 'freedom' is characteristic of the Jacobean belief in the Great Chain of Being and represents Prospero and Ariel's master and servant relationship. This relationship is rejected by Atwood, who puts forward a mutually beneficial relationship between Felix and 8Handz, this is evident through dialogue "If you can fix up what I have in mind" say Felix, "I'm pretty sure I can get you early parole", here Atwood reveals a more complex relationship than Shakespeare, Atwood allows contemporary readers to understand the complexity that modern, realistic relationships bring. Ariel helps Prospero regain his humanity, as evident through the symbolic excerpt "mine would, sir, if I were human". Prospero is motivated by the fact that his lesser, non-human servant has more empathy than him, motivating him to change and regain his humanity, characteristic of Shakespeare's humanist context. Atwood reject this simple reconciliation, characteristic of her 21st C context, empowering both Felix and 8Handz to have complex, unique narratives. Therefore, Felix continues on the path of revenge and it works out for both him and 8Handz who receives "early parole". Atwood as the reader of *The Tempest* suggest s that more complex narratives are more believable and engaging.

The reimagining of texts, allows responders to engage with similar human emotions indifferent ways. Margaret Atwood's *Hag-Seed* reveals more complex character narratives and relationships than William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, revealing the lack of engagement from contemporary readers in the 17th C play.

Well done. Some sophisticated arguments that shows your understanding of the texts. Avoid description and focus more on Atwood's purpose.