Reading
Shakespeare’s The Tempest

Name: __________________________

Date: __________

Introduction to The Tempest
Predicting the Story

1) Break into small groups of 4 people. Your subject for discussion is “What is stronger, nature or nurture?” You will have about 10 minutes to debate this issue. Then you should be prepared to report two things back to the large group. First, state your opinion with support. Next, state an opinion opposite to yours that was expressed in your group that you felt had some merit. (You can use the space below to jot down notes for the report back.)

2) Look at the list of words below. Work with a neighbor and first define the words you can between the two of you without looking up any words. Share the definitions of the words you know with each other. Then share your defined words with the class. If there are any words left undefined, you will then be allowed to look them up to complete the list.

   ANGEL     DEVIL     HEAVEN     HELL     COMMONWEALTH     ROYAL
   PARADISE  GOD       GODDESS    BEAST    SLEEP       USURP
   MONSTER   SOT       TORTOISE  FISH     AWAKE     SUPPLANT
   MOONCALF  DREAM     MAGIC      CHARM    SORcerer    AMBITION
   RULE      ART       WITCH

3) Return to your discussion partner. Consider that the words above are iterative terms Shakespeare uses throughout the play.
   a) Do you see any themes in the list above?
   b) Are relationships among the words apparent? If so, how would you describe those relationships?
   c) Take out your Font of Knowledge script. Consider the words and ideas expressed in the passages you and your partner selected.
   d) Based on all these language clues, what do you think The Tempest is going to be about?