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The Tempest: A Shakespearean Meditation on Art and Artifice

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Oral Presentation 2.2

*THE TEMPEST: A SHAKESPEAREAN MEDITATION
ON ART AND ARTIFICE*

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David Lodge proposes that in the reading process, "Every Decoding is another encoding." With each reading of a work, a reader brings something new, allowing for the possibility of a new interpretation of the text. In *The Tempest*, William Shakespeare employs conventions such as openendedness, intertextuality, and aesthetic distance in order to comment upon the dichotomy between art and reality, ultimately leading the reader to participate in the art itself. By allowing for an unending dramatic dialogue, especially provided for in the epilogue of the work, artists/readers like Peter Greenaway are allowed entrance into the text. When read parallel to Greenaway's interpretations on the text, *Prospero's Books*, a film that emphasizes the importance of image, word, and the creative process, a reader is moved to notice not only Shakespeare's comment on artistic prowess, but on his or her own integral role in the reading process.