

Case Outline

Character: Ariel, from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

Crime(s): Causing the storm; spying on and causing mischief to shipwrecked characters

Reasons: (Prosecutors can use this section as an outline of reasons crimes should not be excused)

First crime	Ariel made the storm happen because Prospero asked him to. Ariel must obey Prospero who is his master.
Quotes from the text to support the charge	<p>"Come away, servant, come" —I, ii</p> <p>"All hail, great master! grave sir, hail! I come To answer thy best pleasure; be't to fly, To swim, to dive into the fire, to ride On the curl'd clouds, to thy strong bidding task Ariel and all his quality." —I, ii</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Hast thou, spirit, Perform'd to point the tempest that I bade thee?" —I, ii</p>
Second crime	Same as first plus any other tasks Prospero sets to Ariel. Ariel thought Prospero would free him after creating the storm.
Quotes from the text to support the charge	<p>"Is there more toil? Since thou dost give me pains, Let me remember thee what thou hast promised, Which is not yet perform'd me." —I, ii</p> <p>"I prithee,/Remember I have done thee worthy service; Told thee no lies, made thee no mistakings, served Without or grudge or grumblings: thou didst promise To bate me a full year." —I, ii</p>
Other supporting research	<p>Encarta online: entry about slavery being complete bondage, must follow orders.</p> <p>Literary Terms: Ariel is a static character; his only purpose is to help Prospero, not given much other development. Only change is eventual freedom. It's like his purpose it to show that Prospero is a good master, but not perfect. Manipulative.</p>

Third crime	He continued to torture the others because Prospero promised him freedom when he was done.
Quotes from the text to support the charge	“Do so, and after two days I will discharge thee.” —I, ii
Other supporting research	See above. Jury Term Guide: Damages—there weren’t any really. Ariel’s antics didn’t lead to any physical or mental harm as everyone “made up” in the end. In fact, without Ariel’s interference, justice wouldn’t have been served to Antonio, Alonso, and Sebastian.

Summary:

Ariel cannot be held accountable for things he did at his master’s command. He wanted freedom from his bondage and thought that the only way he’d get it was by following Prospero’s orders. Clearly, he was reluctant to continue working, and only the prospect of freedom from his tyrannical master kept working.

Sample Essay

Should a slave be held accountable for his actions when he is following his master's orders? This is the key question that needs to be asked before deciding whether Ariel should be punished for creating the storm, and confusing and baiting the shipwrecked characters. Isn't his enslavement punishment enough—especially when his cruel master holds the promise of freedom just far enough in front of Ariel that he can grasp at it but not attain it?

Early in the play, Prospero approaches Ariel with a reminder of Ariel's position as a slave when he says: "Come away, servant, come." A slave is in complete bondage, meaning that he cannot disobey without suffering consequences from his master. Prospero ordered Ariel to create the storm that stranded Alonso, Antonio, and Sebastian. When Ariel first appears in the play, he is greeted by Prospero not with respect, but with this demand: "Hast thou, spirit,/Perform'd to point the tempest that I bade thee?" Prospero "bade", or forced, Ariel to create the storm.

Ariel follows his master's orders and attempts to convince Prospero that he is worthy of freedom. He appears to Prospero with praise, "All hail, great master! grave sir, hail! I come/To answer thy best pleasure; be't to fly,/To swim, to dive into the fire, to ride/On the curl'd clouds, to thy strong bidding task/Ariel and all his quality." Prospero led Ariel to believe that Prospero would free him after completing this last task. As he pleads before his master, "I prithee,/Remember I have done thee worthy service;/Told thee no lies, made thee no mistakings, served/Without or grudge or grumblings: thou didst promise/To bate me a full year," one can picture Ariel bowed to the ground, reminding his master of his faithfulness. Prospero, however, continues to string Ariel along, bidding him to interfere with the shipwrecked men, saying, "Do so, and after two days/I will discharge thee."

Ariel's purpose in the play is also controlled by Prospero. Prospero, a dynamic character who changes throughout the course of the play, needs Ariel to complete his transformation from vengeful tyrant to benevolent ruler. Ariel is a static character, meaning he is not allowed to change during the play. Ariel illustrates that Prospero is a powerful, yet kind, master, by being dutiful to earn his freedom from beginning to end when he finally gets it.

Ariel cannot be held accountable for things he did at his master's command. He wanted freedom from his bondage and thought that the only way he'd get it was by following Prospero's orders. Clearly, he was reluctant to continue working, and only the prospect of freedom from his tyrannical master made him continue to work. Juries are supposed to consider the accused's actions and their affects on other characters. Ariel's antics didn't lead to any physical or mental harm as everyone "made up" in the end. In fact, without Ariel's interference, justice wouldn't have been served to Antonio, Alonso, and Sebastian. Clearly, Ariel should be honored, not punished, for his role in peacefully reuniting two families.