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| **Lesson Title:** ShakespeareanText | | **Theme:** Reading | |
| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-114 | | **Class:** JSS 3 | |
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| **Learning Outcomes**  By the end of the lesson, you will be able to:  1. Demonstrate understanding of the play.  2. Give an opinion about characters and activities in the play. | | | |

**Overview**

The **Merchant of Venice** is a play written by William Shakespeare. There are four main characters: Antonio, Bassanio, Shylock and Portia.

**Antonio** is a wealthy merchant in Venice, which is now part of Italy. **Bassanio** is his friend. Bassanio loves **Portia**, whose father is rich. Bassanio asks to borrow money from Antonio so that he can convince Portia to marry him. Antonio cannot loan Bassanio the money. He takes him to borrow money from a man named **Shylock**.

Shylock, who is Jewish, hates Antonio because he feels mistreated by the Christians in Venice. He agrees to lend Bassanio the money, but on the condition that if Bassanio and Antonio cannot repay the loan on time, Shylock may take a pound of Antonio’s flesh.

Bassanio convinces Portia to marry him. But Antonio is unable to repay Shylock’s loan. Shylock demands a pound of Antonio’s flesh. Portia disguises herself as a legal clerk and goes to Antonio’s trial. She outsmarts Shylock and prevents him from taking revenge on Antonio.

The play is a comedy. It ends with the **protagonists**’ good fortunes restored. Shylock, the **antagonist**, is humiliated. The play deals with serious themes, such as religious conflict and oppression. Shylock is the villain, but his hatred is due to poor treatment by Christians, especially Antonio. For example, when Shylock points out that Antonio has treated him badly because he is Jewish, Antonio does not feel bad. He says he will never change, even if Shylock loans him money.

**Practice**

**Activity 1**

Read the following excerpt from the Act 1, Scene 3 of *The Merchant of Venice* and answer the comprehension questions.

Excerpt 1:

SHYLOCK

Fair sir, you spat on me on Wednesday last,

You spurned me such a day; another time

You called me a dog; and for these courtesies

I’ll lend you thus much moneys?

ANTONIO:

I am as like to call thee so again,

To spit on thee again, to spurn thee too.

Excerpt 2 (from Act 3, Scene 3):

SHYLOCK

I’ll have my bond, speak not against my bond.

I have sworn an oath that I will have my bond.

Thou call’dst me dog before thou hadst a cause,

But since I am a dog beware my fangs.

**Comprehension questions**

1. From the excerpts, what is the relationship between Shylock and Antonio?
2. State which three things Antonio had said and done to make Shylock angry.
3. What is the bond Shylock is asking for?
4. According to the excerpts, identify two things about the character of Antonio.
5. According to the excerpts, identify two things about the character of Shylock.

**Activity 2**

Choose the correct answers from the multiple-choice options given.

1. Antonio is .
2. a bard
3. a thief
4. a beggar
5. a merchant
6. What does Antonio have to do in order for Bassanio to receive money?
7. He must pledge his own collateral for the loan.
8. He must promise his daughter in marriage.
9. He must sell some of his ships.
10. He must promise to convert to Christianity.
11. What Biblical passage does Shylock quote to defend charging interest on loans?
12. Jacob receiving the striped lambs from his father-in-law
13. The scene of the last supper
14. Noah building the ark
15. Pilot whipping Jesus 40 times
16. When the play begins, Antonio and Portia can best be described as
17. ambiguous
18. depressed
19. happy
20. corrupt
21. Who is the merchant of Venice?
22. Shylock
23. Antonio
24. Portia
25. Bassanio
26. What condition must the Prince of Morocco agree to before he may choose from among the caskets?
27. That if he chooses wrong, he will give Portia all his wealth and leave forever.
28. That if he chooses wrong, he will kill himself.
29. That if he chooses wrong, he will never marry.
30. That if he chooses wrong, he will have to marry a woman of Portia’s choosing.
31. Lancelof leaves Shylock to become whose servant?
32. Jessica
33. Antonio
34. Bassanio
35. Gobbo
36. Lorenzo and Jessica do what during the masque?
37. They run away from Shylock’s house, taking a great deal of gold and valuables with them.
38. They get into an argument and refuse to speak to one another.
39. They become drunk with the other revellers.
40. They purchase a monkey and bring it back to Shylock’s house.
41. How is Jessica dressed when she runs away from Shylock?
42. In a valuable dress covered with jewels
43. As a clown
44. As a man
45. As a queen
46. Shylock delivers his famous monologue, ‘Hath not a Jew eyes?’, to which characters?
47. Solanio and Salerio
48. Bassanio and Graziano
49. Jessica and Lorenzo
50. Portia and Nerissa
51. After Bassanio chooses the correct casket, what does Portia give him and tell him never to lose?
52. The casket
53. A ring
54. Money to take to Antonio
55. Herself

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| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-114-MB |

**Activity 1**

1. The relationship between the two is that of hatred for each other.
2. Antonio had spat on him. He had called him dog and a misbeliever.
3. This is the written agreement about the money loaned from him by Antonio.
4. Example answer: Antonio hates Shylock for lending money at interest. Antonio does not like Jews.
5. Example answer: Shylock is a miser. He hates Antonio.

**Activity 2**

1. d 2. a 3. a 4. d 5. b 6. c 7. c 8. a 9. c 10. a 11. b