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| **Lesson Title:** Features of a Hero or Villain | | **Theme:** Reading | |
| **Practice Activity:** PHL-09-101 | | **Class:** JSS 3 | |
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| **Learning Outcome**  By the end of the lesson, you will be able to:   1. Gain strategies in analysing characters’ actions. 2. Determine what makes a character a hero, a villain, a protagonist or an antagonist. | | | |

**Overview**

Drama is a type of literature that we study in Language Arts. One feature of a drama is the different characters in it.

The table below looks at some important types of characters:

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| **Type of Character** | **Description** |
| Protagonist | The protagonist is the main character in a drama or story. We call both male and female characters protagonists. |
| Antagonist | The antagonist is the opposite of the protagonist. The antagonist is the person who has conflict with the protagonist. He or she is hostile, the adversary. |
| Hero | A hero is a man who is admired for courage, great achievements or noble qualities. |
| Heroine | A heroine is a woman who is admired for courage, great achievements or noble qualities. |
| Villain | The opposite of a hero or heroine is a villain. The villain is the character in a play or story that is involved in evil or bad things. In a drama the villain opposes the hero. We call both male and female characters villains. |

When determining whether a character is a protagonist or antagonist, hero or villain, we always need to think about their actions and identify the reason or motivation for why.

For example, a man might steal a truck full of bread. If you do not know why he stole the bread, you will think he is a thief. You may consider him a villain. But if you found out that he stole the bread to give to starving orphans, then you may think of him as a hero.

**Practice**

**Activity 1**

Choose the correct answers to the following questions from the multiple-choice options provided.

1. The character in the story who wants to achieve a goal, usually the main character, is:
2. Antagonist
3. Protagonist
4. Foil
5. Stereotype
6. The character who acts as an obstacle to prevent the protagonist from reaching his or her goal is:
7. Antagonist
8. Protagonist
9. Aside
10. Main character
11. The character you generally cheer for in the drama is:
12. Antagonist
13. Dynamic
14. Static
15. Protagonist
16. The character in the story who opposes the main character is:
17. Narrator
18. Protagonist
19. Foil
20. Antagonist
21. The female hero in a drama is called:
22. Antagonist
23. Villain
24. Heroine
25. Hero
26. The hero in ‘The Merchant Of Venice’ is:
27. Bassanio
28. Salerio
29. Antonio
30. Solanio
31. The heroine in ‘The Merchant of Venice’ is:
32. Nerissa
33. Jessica
34. Leah
35. Portia

**Activity 2**

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

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| Basanio: | (To Shylock) Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly? |
| Shylock: | To cut the forfeiture from that bankrupt there. |
| Gratiano: | Not on thy sole, but on thy soul, harsh Jew,  Thou mak’st thy knife keen. But no metal can –  No, not the hangman’s axe – bear half the keenness  Of thy sharp envy. Can no prayers pierce thee? |
| Shylock: | No, none that thou hast wit enough to make. |
| Gratiano: | O be thou dammed, inexecrable dog,  And for thy life let justice be accused!  Thou almost mak’st me waver in my faith,  To hold opinion with Pythagoras  That soul of animals infuse themselves  Into the trunks of men. Thy currish spirit  Governed a wolf, who hanged for human slaughter,  Even from the gallows did fell soul fleet,  And whilst thou in thy unhallowed dam,  Infused itself in thee, for thy desires  Are wolvish, bloody, starved and ravenous. |
| Shylock: | Till thou canst rail the seal from off my bond,  Thou but offend’st thy lungs to speak so loud.  Repair thy wit, good youth, or it will fall  To cureless ruin. I stand here for law. |

**Comprehension questions**

1. Who is the hero in this extract?
2. Which line shows the person is a hero?
3. Who is the villain in this extract?
4. Which lines show the person is a villain?

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**Activity 1**

1. b 2. a 3. d 4. d 5. c 6. c 7. d

**Activity 2**

1. The hero in this extract is Gratiano.
2. ‘Of thy sharp envy, can no prayers pierce thee?’ Gratiano was trying to ask if there is nothing someone could do to pacify Shylock from taking an action of cutting the pound of flesh from Antonio. He stands up to the villan.
3. The villain is Shylock.
4. Shylock says that he is sharpening his knife so earnestly ‘to cut the forfeiture from that bankrupt there’. He means to cut a pound of flesh from Antonio. That was the reason why he was sharpening the knife earnestly.