

Understanding the basics for *Merchant of Venice*

Character identification: Choose the character that matches each description. Not all of the characters will be used. Please print this out at home, fill in the answers and bring to class on January 21, 2008

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| ___ 1. Portia's maid | a. Antonio |
| ___ 2. rich heiress of Belmont | b. Gratiano |
| ___ 3. unsuccessful suitor to Portia | c. Bassanio |
| ___ 4. Shylock's servant | d. Solanio |
| ___ 5. Jewish moneylender | e. Portia |
| ___ 6. Nerissa's husband | f. Nerissa |
| ___ 7. merchant of Venice | g. Shylock |
| ___ 8. Shylock's daughter | h. Jessica |
| ___ 9. Christian gentleman who elopes
with Jewish girl | i. Launcelot Gobbo |
| ___ 10. gentleman who wins Portia's hand | j. Lorenzo |
| | k. Prince of Morocco |

Quotation identification: Choose the correct speaker for each quotation. Some choices may be used more than once.

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| ___ 11. "The quality of mercy is not strain'd; / It droppeth
as the gentle rain from heave/ Upon the place
beneath." | a) Antonio |
| | b) Lorenzo |
| ___ 12. "O love must be moderate; allay the ecstasy; / In
measure rain the joy; scant the excess!" | c) Duke of Venice |
| | d) Duke of Morocco |
| ___ 13. "Let not the sound of shallow foppery enter / My
sober house." | e) Jessica |
| ___ 14. "Farewell; and if my fortune be not crost, / I have
a father, you a daughter lost." | f) Shylock |
| | g) Portia |
| ___ 15. "The villainy you teach me, I will execute; and it
shall go hard but I will better the instruction." | |
| ___ 16. "How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this
bank! / Here will we sit, and let sounds of music /
Creep in our ears." | |
| ___ 17. "How far that little candle throws its beam! / So
shines a good deed in a naughty world." | |
| ___ 18. "I have too grieved a heart to take a tedious leave;
thus losers part?" | |

____ 19. "...the world thinks and I think too. / That thou
but lead'st this fashion of thy malice / To the last
hour of act; and then 'tis thought / Thou'll show
thy mercy and remorse."

____ 20. "I hold the world but as the world.../ A stage,
where every man must play a part, / And mine
a sad one."

Philosophy identification. Choose the character that exhibits each philosophy.

____ 21 Justice should be tempered with mercy. a) Antonio

____ 22. Power and courage should bring rewards. b) Portia

____ 23. An individual should accept whatever role fate assigns. c) Shylock

____ 24. Repay evil with evil. d) Bassanio

____ 25. One should not be led astray by outward show. e) Prince of Morocco