

The Merchant of Venice test

Name _____

Review your class notes and quizzes for *The Merchant of Venice*. Then, without the aid of notes or the text, complete this test. Print this off, give yourself an hour to take the test, and hand it in at the start of class on February 4th.

In discussing Shakespeare's use of language, what FIVE stylistic devices does he use in his plays? (Hint: one is *puns*) Name the other four devices; briefly define all five; then give an EXAMPLE of each stylistic device.

Device	Definition	Example
--------	------------	---------

1. pun

2.

3.

4.

5.

Define *syntax* as it is used in Shakespeare's writing.

What is Shakespeare's purpose for sometimes using inverted syntax in his lines?

Shakespeare writes his plays in blank verse. **In three words**, define blank verse:

There are 3 types of irony used in literature. Name each one and define ONLY the type of irony used most often in *The Merchant of Venice*.

1.

2.

3.

The real trial is in Act 4. In the mock trial of Act V, who is the “lawyer”?
From whom is the lawyer trying to secure mercy?
Who is the lawyer’s “client”?
Explain the reversal that adds to the comedy.

Remember, a comedy is a lighter form of drama that aims primarily to amuse and that ends happily. It also contains romantic settings, intertwining love stories, and a less exalted writing style. *The Merchant of Venice* is considered a comedy because of its happy ending, since all the loose ends are tied up and the play ends in harmony. List as many resolved elements as you can from the play. There are 5 or 6 of them, and I’ve given one to get you started.

1. A good man, Antonio, is saved from death.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Quotes:

____ 1. “The quality of mercy is not strain’d; / It droppeth
as the gentle rain from heave/ Upon the place
beneath.”

a) Jessica

b) Lorenzo

____ 2. “O love must be moderate; allay the ecstasy; / In
measure rain the joy; scant the excess!”

c) Duke of Venice

d) Duke of Morocco

____ 3. “Let not the sound of shallow foppery enter / My
sober house.”

e) Antonio

____ 4. “Farewell; and if my fortune be not crost, / I have
a father, you a daughter lost.”

f) Shylock

- _____ 5. “The villainy you teach me, I will execute; and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction.”
- _____ 6. ...But if you please/ To shoot another arrow that self way/ Which you did shoot the first, I do not doubt/ As I will watch the aim, or to find both”
- _____ 7. “How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank! / Here will we sit, and let sounds of music / Creep in our ears.”
- _____ 8. “How far that little candle throws its beam! / So shines a good deed in a naughty world.”
- _____ 9, “I have too grieved a heart to take a tedious leave; thus losers part?”
- _____ 10. “...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’l show thy mercy and remorse.”
- _____ 11. “I hold the world but as the world.../ A stage, where every man must play a part, / And mine a sad one.”
- _____ 12. “You shall not seal to such a bond for me!/ I’ll rather dwell in my necessity.”
- _____ 13. “I once did lend my body for his wealth,’ Which but for him that had your husband’s ring/ Had quite miscarried. I dare be bound again.”
- _____ 14. “So is the will of a living daughter/ Curbed by the will of a dead father.”
- _____ 15. “Alack, what heinous sin is it in me/ To be ashamed to be my father’s child.”

g) Portia

h) Bassanio

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) Bassanio

_____23. An individual should accept whatever role fate assigns.

c) Portia

_____24. Repay evil with evil.

d) Prince of
Morocco

_____25. One should not be led astray by outward show.

e) Shylock

Essay. **Answer only ONE of the following essays:**

Contrast the father-daughter relationships that exist between Shylock and Jessica and between Portia's father and Portia. Don't simply retell the story. Identify 2 or 3 ways in which the women's relationship differs.

A key theme in all Shakespeare's works is appearance versus reality. Drawing upon three examples, illustrate the theme of appearance versus reality in *The Merchant of Venice*.

