

## Shakespeare class homework after class 2

1. **Review all Act 1-5 questions** about *The Merchant of Venice*. If you need to complete the questions next week, do so. I will collect all the questions in class 3 (1/28/08). We will complete the questions in next week's graded discussion.
2. Write the entire **rough draft** for the composition for *MOV*; **print out and bring to class on 1/28/08**
3. Memorize "The quality of mercy..." speech (4.1.190-203)

### **Review of what you should have turned in on 1/21/08:**

1. Act 1 and 2 quizzes
2. "Understanding the MOV" worksheet

### **Review of what you should have in your notebook. These were not to be turned in, but you will need them.**

1. Definitions of pun, malapropism, metaphor, simile, allusion
2. Discussion question for Acts 1-5
3. Topic for *MOV* composition

### **Reminders about writing the composition:**

#### Thesis statement must have

- Title of the work underlined or in *italics*
- Author's full name
- A topic sentence
- A thesis statement with three points

#### Expository writing must remember:

- Do not use any phrase such as "In this paper I will show..."
- Do not use the first or second person pronouns: *I, me, my, mine, you, your, yours*
- Limit the passive voice verbs. Use **NO MORE** than 5 to be verbs in the entire composition (*is, am, are, was, were, be, been, being*)
- Use at least 5 quotations from the text to support your thesis; just cite the line as 1.1.26 for act one, scene one, line 26.
- Paragraph 1 should have 2-4 sentences and include the information listed above.
- Paragraph 2 should prove the first point in the thesis statement.
- Paragraph 3 should prove the second point in the thesis statement.
- Paragraph 4 should prove the third point in the thesis statement.
- Paragraph 5 should have 2-4 sentences and conclude the paper. Sometimes an appropriate quotation found from another work of literature will conclude forcefully.

#### Example of an opening paragraph

William Shakespeare, in his comedy *The Merchant of Venice*, explores the theme

of mercy versus justice as it plays out in several characters' lives. By considering Antonio's generous friendship to his friend Bassanio, Shylock's serious demand for the pound of flesh, and Portia's and Nerissa's humorous encounter with their husbands with regard to wedding rings, Shakespeare explores three facets of mercy when contrasted with justice.

### **Analysis of the first paragraph of a composition**

Sentence one has the author and title. The sentence itself is the topic sentence because the reader knows this paper will compare mercy versus justice in the lives of some of the play's characters.

Sentence two gives the topic of the next three paragraphs:

- Paragraph two will explore Antonio's choice to show mercy and lend more money to Bassanio. How is this mercy? What things are said in the play that prove mercy triumphs over justice here.
- Paragraph three will explore a much more serious look at the hatred motivating Shylock to demand justice rather than show mercy. How do justice and mercy stand up when placed side by side in a life and death struggle?
- Paragraph four will explore a lighter look at justice and mercy as these two wives tease their husbands.

Sentence three summarizes the three facets of justice and mercy that Shakespeare has presented. Mercy often triumphs over justice within a friendship. Mercy ignored while justice is demanded can bring out the most hateful side of human beings. Finally, mercy used playfully can deepen relationships and end an earlier charade.