

# The Merchant of Venice

## Book key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 a beggar, clerk, duke, master, merchant, mistress, villain  
b debt, fortune, guarantee, interest, loan, owe, profit
- 3 a Shylock – because Antonio will lose his life if he cannot repay his debt.  
b Christian, kind, poor  
c Italy, loyalty, *Romeo and Juliet*  
d The agreement is between Shylock and Antonio. Antonio borrows money from Shylock, and agrees to give Shylock a pound of his flesh if he cannot repay it on time. No, it was not sensible of Antonio to agree to this.
- 4 a Salerio reminds Antonio of the dangers at sea.  
b Solanio jokes about Antonio's mood.  
c Gratiano criticises Antonio's attitude to life.  
d Bassanio is often careless with money.  
e Nerissa thinks that too much money is a bad thing.  
f Portia has many admirers.  
g Shylock refuses to eat with Antonio.  
h Antonio lends money for no profit.
- 5 a debts  
b owe  
c fortune  
d money  
e borrow  
f interest, profits  
g guarantee  
h loan
- 6 a False. He owes him a lot already.  
b True  
c False. She describes six.  
d False. She can speak French, Italian and Latin.  
e False. She is bored by his arrival.  
f False. He hates Antonio because he charges no interest on his loans.  
g False. On this occasion, to help a friend, he is willing to pay interest.  
h False. He believes that his ships will return before he has to repay the loan.
- 7 a When he lost a ball, he found it if he threw another one in the same direction. In the same way, he thinks that he will get back his lost money if Antonio lends him some more.  
b It is against his religion to eat pork. He also knows that Antonio does not like him.  
c Because Antonio complains about him in public. Also, Antonio's business methods bring down Shylock's profits.  
d Open answers  
e He wants a pound of Antonio's flesh. In his opinion, it is a kind offer because it shows Antonio that he is not only interested in money.
- 8–10 Open answers
- 11 a Portia/Prince of Morocco.  
b Launcelot/his father.  
c Jessica/Launcelot.  
d Jessica/herself.  
e Solanio/Lorenzo.  
f Shylock/Jessica.  
g Antonio/Gratiano.  
h Solanio/ Salerio.  
i Arragon/Portia.
- 12 a 7) He tells Portia that he is afraid of no one and is loved by the most beautiful young women of his country.  
b 5) He jokes foolishly with his blind father.  
c 1) He is blind and cannot recognise his own son.  
d 2) Bassanio tells him that he is noisy and badly-behaved.  
e 4) She is ashamed of her father. She is dishonest because she does not tell her father about her plans to run away with Lorenzo. She also steals some of her father's money and jewels.  
f 6) He is worried about the masked party and tells his daughter to lock all the doors and shut all the windows. He is also worried about the invitation to dinner with Antonio. Later, he is angry and worried about Jessica and his stolen money and jewels.  
g 3) He is in love with Jessica and is happy because she runs away with him.
- 13 a sweet  
b happy  
c amusing  
d worried  
e kind  
f sad  
g foolish  
h excited
- 14–15 Open answers
- 16 a 2 b 1 c 3 d 4 e 7 f 5 g 6

## The Merchant of Venice

- 17 a *Jews should be Christians.*  
 b *Lorenzo should be Antonio.*  
 c *cat should be monkey.*  
 d *immediately should be later.*  
 e *pretty should be ordinary.*  
 f *frightened should be weakened.*  
 g *Gratiano should be Lorenzo.*  
 h *Venice should be Padua.*
- 18 a 'It's only natural for young birds to leave their home.' Solanio is talking to Shylock about Jessica.  
 b 'If you cut us do we not bleed?' Shylock is talking to Salerio and Solanio about the unfairness of Antonio's dislike for him.  
 c 'That's like a knife to my heart.' Shylock is talking to Tubal about news of his daughter spending eighty ducats in one night.  
 d 'All bad things can look good on the outside.' Bassanio is explaining why he does not trust the gold or silver boxes.  
 e 'This letter is the body of my friend.' Bassanio is talking about the letter from Antonio.  
 f 'The Duke can't deny the course of law.' Antonio is explaining to Solanio why the Duke cannot stop Shylock from getting his pound of flesh.  
 g 'I'll tell lies about ladies who died of broken hearts because of me.' Portia is telling Nerissa about her future behaviour as 'a man'.  
 h 'I know many fools in higher places who are exactly like him.' Lorenzo is talking about Launcelot.

19–20 Open answers

- 21 a Shylock's  
 b justice  
 c death  
 d Doctor of Law  
 e honoured  
 f blood  
 g property  
 h before
- 22 a Shylock gives the court examples of things that some people hate for no reason.  
 b Antonio gives Bassanio examples of things that cannot be controlled.  
 c Shylock says that unpaid workers belong to Christians in the same way that the pound of flesh belongs to him.  
 d Antonio compares his life to the weakest kind of fruit.

- e Portia tells Shylock that the best justice is guided by forgiveness.  
 f Portia tells Shylock that a foreigner loses his property if he tries to kill a citizen of Venice.  
 g Gratiano thinks that Shylock should be given a free piece of rope to hang himself with.  
 h Portia asks Bassanio for his gloves and ring as payment for her help.

23–25 Open answers

26 a T b F c T d F e T f T g T

- 27 a Jessica was probably afraid of losing all her father's money, but she will have it after his death. Shylock is not in a strong position to be angry with her now. Her father will become a Christian, so he will not be able to complain about her marriage for religious reasons.  
 b Antonio thought that he had lost all his money. But three of his ships returned safely.  
 c Bassanio thought that he was in trouble with Portia for giving away her ring. But he realises that the Doctor of Law was really Portia and that the ring is not lost. Antonio helps him get Portia's forgiveness.  
 d The same as for question c.

28–38 Open answers

### Discussion activities key

1–28 Open answers

### Activity worksheets key

1–2 Open answers

- 3 a neither  
 b Antonio / Shylock  
 c Antonio  
 d Antonio / Shylock  
 e Antonio  
 f Shylock  
 g Antonio  
 h Shylock  
 i Antonio  
 j Antonio / Shylock  
 k Antonio

4–8 Open answers

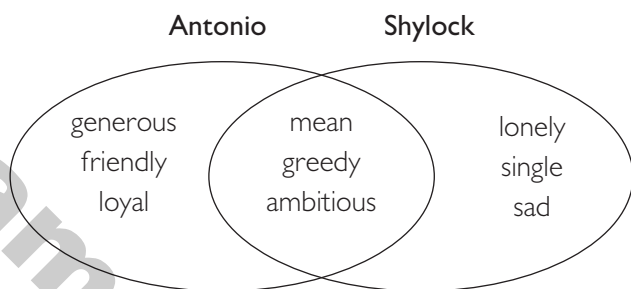
9 1 b 2 h 3 a 4 g 5 i 6 f 7 c 8 d 9 j  
 10 e 11 k 12 l

10 Open answers

- 11 a flesh, ink, snow. To Shylock.  
 b bleed, poison, revenge. To Salerio.  
 c body, blood. To Portia.  
 d teeth. To Antonio.

## The Merchant of Venice

12 Words not included: married – happy



13–21 Open answers

### Progress test key

1 l g 2 b 3 e 4 f 5 c 6 d 7 h 8 a

- 2 a F Antonio does not know why he is sad.  
 b F Antonio asks Bassanio the name of the lady he is going to visit.  
 c T  
 d F Portia has sent 'wordless messages through her eyes.'  
 e F Antonio has no money to help Bassanio.  
 f T  
 g F Only Shylock makes a profit on his loans.  
 h F Bassanio does not want Antonio to sign the agreement.
- 3 a l b 2 c 2 d l e 2
- 4 a 5 b l c 3 d 4 e 2
- 5 a F He offers double and even ten times that amount.  
 b F Bellario, a doctor from Padua, has sent another doctor, who is Portia dressed as a man, to Venice.  
 c T  
 d F The Duke wants to teach Shylock a lesson so he forgives Shylock before he asks to be forgiven.  
 e T
- 6 a Because Gratiano has lost the ring.  
 b Because he could say he lost the ring defending it.  
 c Because Portia wants to pay him back for giving the ring to the Doctor of Law.  
 d Because Portia wants to show Bassanio and Gratiano that they have been loyal to them.  
 e Because Portia and the doctor are the same person.