

The Merchant of Venice

Language:

- How does Shakespeare use language to make the audience have a particular opinion of Shylock?
- How does the language Shakespeare uses affect the audience in his time AND now?

Explore the extent to which Shakespeare presents Shylock as a victim or villain in *The Merchant of Venice*

Context — moral and social:

- What impact did this text have on the audience at the time?
- Why?
- What impact does this text have on the audience today?
- Why?

Context — literary:

- What genre is the play?
- How do you know?
- Is the play still the same genre as it was originally?
- If it has changed, how and why has it changed?
- In what way does this affect our understanding of Shylock?

These are the simplified criteria for this assignment. All of them need to be addressed in order to make sure you achieve the best possible grades.
Don't forget your PEAs.

Structure:

- When is Shylock first introduced in the play?
- How is he introduced?
- How much does he actually appear in the play compared to how much he is talked about by other characters?
- How does the end of the play affect our perception (understanding) of Shylock?

Context — historical:

- What was happening at the time when the text was written?
- How does that affect what Shakespeare wrote?
- Does the text still work now?
- Why?

- Remember to make clear links between each of your points and paragraphs.
- Deadline for rough draft:

Personal response:

- What do you think of Shakespeare's presentation of Shylock?
- Why?
- Do you like the play?
- Explain why.