

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ.
SESSION: 2020-2021
CLASS: 10 A, B, C, D, E & F
SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE e-learn ASSIGNMENT 1.

INSTRUCTIONS: The parents to ensure that their ward watches the video instructions for the assignment by clicking on the given link; video1 <https://youtu.be/JytnGG6SArk> video 2 <https://youtu.be/hbS-yw JRc8>

She should revise the lesson given in the book and then work on the assignment. The completed assignment is to be downloaded and filed/pasted in the subject file/copy and kept ready for submission.

The date, day and procedure of submission shall be notified later.

BOOK: The Merchant of Venice by Shakespeare.

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow;

Q1. **PORTIA** : I could teach you

How to choose right, but then I am forsworn;
So will I never be; so may you miss me;-
But if you do, you'll make me wish a sin,
That I had been forsworn, Beshrew your eyes,
They have o'erlook'd me and divided me.

- What choice does Bassanio have to make?
- What does Portia mean by saying *I am forsworn*?
- Explain *But if you do, you'll make me wish a sin*
- How had Portia been *o'erlook'd* and *divided*?
- Why had Portia been speaking so long? What does it tell you about her character?

Q2. **PORTIA:** Ay, but I fear you speak upon the rack,
Where men enforced to speak anything.

BASSANIO: Promise me life and I'll confess the truth.

PORTIA: Well then, confess and live.

BASSANIO: Confess and love.

Had been the very sum of my confession:
O happy torment, when my torturer
Doth teach me answers for deliverance!
But let me to my fortune and the caskets.

- Where does this scene take place? Who are the other people present at this time?
- Why does Portia fear that he speaks upon the rack?
- Explain the meaning of *O happy torment, when my torturer Doth teach me answers for my deliverance!*
- What was Bassanio's mood at this time?
- Give one example to show how Portia had hinted to Bassanio at the beginning of this scene that she loved him.

PORTIA: Away, then! I am lock'd in one of them;
If you do love me, you will find out.
Nerrisa and the rest, stand all aloof –
Let music sound while he doth make his choice;
Then, if he lose, he makes a swan-like end,
Fading in music: that the comparison
May stand more proper, my eye shall be the stream,
And watery death-bed for him. He may win;
And what music then?

- a) How and where is Portia *lock'd*?
- b) How would Bassanio find her?
- c) Why does Portia want music to be played while Bassanio makes a choice?
- d) Explain ; *my eyes shall be the stream and watery death-bed for him.*
- e) What is *swan-like end*?

Q4. BASSANIO: How many cowards whose hearts are all as false
As stairs of sand, wear yet upon their chins.
The beards of Hercules and frowning Mars;
Who, inward search'd have liver's white as milk
And these assume but valour's excrement
To render them redoubted! Look on beauty,
And you shall see tis purchased by the weight;
Which therein works a miracle in nature,
Making them lightest that wear most of it.

- a) Where is Bassanio? What is he about to do which will have an important bearing in his future?
- b) Why has Bassanio mentioned Hercules and Mars? Who were they?
- c) Explain the meaning of *tis purchase by the weight; which therein works a miracle in nature.*
- d) What does Bassanio go onto say about the golden curls on women's head? Why does he refer to the golden hair as *crisp'd snaky golden locks*?
- e) Why does Bassanio reject the gold and silver casket?

Q5. BASSANIO: The seeming truth which cunning times put on,
To entrap the wisest. Therefore, thou gaudy gold,
Hard food for Midas, I will none of thee,
Nor none of thee, thou pale and common drudge
tween man and man.

- a) What does the speaker say about beauty in the lines preceding the given extract?
- b) What imagery does Bassanio bring out while speaking of *crisped, snaky golden locks* in this same speech as another example of deception?
- c) Bring out the allusion to Midas? Why does he refer to gold as gaudy?
- d) Which casket is he referring to in the last two lines of the given extract? Why does he call it *pale and common drudge 'tween man and man*?
- e) Which casket does he choose and why?

THE END

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