# ENG 1D "The Merchant of Venice" - Act 2 Summary Information COLLABORATIVE SUMMARY WORK

The notes below have been created by students in class. All students are responsible for studying these notes for upcoming quizzes and the test.

#### Act 2, scene 1 - Prepared by Madisyn and Hannah

## **Summary of Scene:**

- -Morocco and Portia are talking at the beginning about his complection
- -She explains how her father has the most power in the choosing of her husband
- -Morocco explains how he will not ever propose marriage to anyone, if he chooses wrongly.

## Plot Development/ Conflict:

- -This scene has expanded on the "Plot B" plot. Portia's love and the game with the 3 men.
- -Man #1 has arrived "Morocco" him and Portia talk and he says how she is his choice in wife and if he doesn't win this game he will remain single forever.

#### **Character/ Character Traits:**

Prince of Morocco: he is determined to win Portia's love

Portia: She is stuck up and thinks she is better then all of the guys.

#### Theme:

LOVE: Morocco shows his love for Portia but Portia doesn't love him back because of his complexion or skin colour.

RACISM: Portia judged Morocco by the way he looks instead of actually getting to know him. She doesn't want to marry him but he's in love with her.

#### **Important Quote:**

"Mislike me not for my complexion, the shadowed livery of the burnished sun."

This quote shows an example to the racism plot and how Portia judged him on his skin colour.

# Act 2, scene 2 - Prepared by Rebecca & Camille

#### **Summary:**

Lancelot wants to go work for Bassanio instead of Shylock.

#### **Conflict:**

Selfish- Lancelot is being selfish by leaving Shylock.

#### **Characters:**

Lancelot- We learn that Lancelot is selfish by betraying Shylock. Gobo- He is a forgetful old man.

#### Theme:

Betrayal and Greed.

## Act 2, scene 3 - Prepared by Devin Turgeon

## **Summary of Scene**

- Shylock's daughter Jessica is introduced
- She wants to give a letter to Lorenzo
- She wants to marry Lorenzo
- They are not allowed to get married because he is Christian

# **Plot Development/Conflict**

● The plot of love is developed between Jessica and Lorenzo which also develops the plot of racism because she can't marry him because he is Christian

#### **Characters/ Character Traits**

- Jessica is desperate for love. This is demonstrated by her willingness to run away so she can get married.
- Lancelot is helpful to Jessica. He was willing to give the letter to Lorenzo.

#### Theme

• The themes of racism and love are demonstrated in this scene

## Act 2, Scene 4 - Prepared by Devin Turgeon

# **Summary of Scene**

- Lorenzo gets Jessica's letter
- Gratiano is questioning who the letter is from
- Lorenzo tells Gratiano that Jessica is going to run away after stealing from her father and they are going to get married

## Plot Developments/ Conflict

• Develops the plot of love. The plot is developed between Lorenzo and Jessica

## **Characters/ Character Traits**

- Gratiano is curious. He wonders all about the letter
- Lorenzo worries a lot. He worries that Jessica's plan is not a good one.

#### Theme

• The theme of love is demonstrated in this scene.

# Act 2, Scene 5 - Prepared by Markus Luomala

## **Summary Of Scene:**

- -Lancelot hands Shylock an invitation
- -The invitation is to dinner at Bassanio's
- -Shylock accepts the invitation grudgingly

- -Shylock calls for Jessica and tells her to watch the house while he's out
- -Before Lancelot leaves, he tells Jessica that Lorenzo is coming that night
- -When Shylock leaves, Jessica says that if luck's with her, she'll lose a father and Shylock will lose a daughter

## **Plot Developments/Conflict:**

- -When Shylock leaves the house, the plot of Jessica stealing Shylock's fortune and running away with Lorenzo starts to unfold
- -Shylock's sourness for Christians is shown which leads into the plot with Shylock trying to get revenge on Antonio

#### **Character/Character Traits:**

-Jessica:

Determined (Will do anything to be with Lorenzo)

Deceiving (Has a plan to steal from Shylock right under his nose)

-Shylock:

Hateful (Hates Christians for the mistreating for Jews they show)

Vengeful (Wants revenge against Antonio/Christians)

#### Themes:

- -Theme Of Deceit (Jessica stealing from Shylock)
- -Theme of Money (Bassanio's loan from Shylock in Antonio's name)

## Act 2, Scene 6 - Devon Couch

## **Plot summary**

In this scene of the play Gratiano and Salarino help Leonardo run away with Jessica and some of Shylocks treasures. Jessica comes out of her house dressed as a boy and with a chest of shylocks treasure. She is dressed as a boy because she is pretending to be Leonardo's torchbearer while they run away. Jessica, Leonardo and Salarino exit. Antonio arrives and tells Gratiano that Bassanio will be going to Belmont to try and win Portia.

#### Plot conflict

The conflict in this scene is that one of Antonio's friends has stolen treasures and ran away with the daughter of the person that Antonio is lending money from. This is a conflict because if Shylock discovers the connection between Antonio and his daughters disappearance he may be more harsh about his punishment if Antonio doesn't pay him back in time.

#### Characters

The characters in this scene are Gratiano, Salarino, Leonardo, Jessica and Antonio.

# Act 2, Scene 7 - Prepared by Riley Parent

#### **Summary of Scene:**

- Lines 1-3: Portia introduces the Prince of Morocco to the game. The game three chests one gold, one silver, and one lead. The suitor picks a chest and if Portia's picture is in it, he gets to marry her.
- Lines 4-13: Each chest has an inscription gold says: "who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire", silver says: "who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves", lead says: "who chooseth me shall give and hazard all he hath".
- Lines 16-69: the Prince deducts that the picture must be in the gold chest, Portia gives him the key.
- Lines 70-85: Instead of a picture the Prince finds a skull and a warning not to judge something by its appearance.
- Lines 86-87: Portia says good riddance, I hope all the blacks pick the same

#### Plot Developments:

 Portia's treatment of the Prince of Morocco furthers the plot of racism by showing how black people are treated. Her treatment is shown when she says "a gentle riddance!
 Draw the curtains, go. let all his complexion choose me so".  The Prince of Morocco failure furthers the plot of love by narrowing the competition for Portia.

# **Character/character traits**

- Portia: Portia is shown to be racist, shallow and impatient.
- The prince of Morocco: The prince values gold and wealth very highly, he also wants Portia quite badly.

#### **Themes**

The themes of Act 2 Sc. 7 are love and racism. The theme of racism is shown through Portia's treatment of the Moroccan (black) prince. The theme of love is shown through the prince's actions and dialogue while opening the chests in which he shows his feelings towards the black prince.

# Act 2, Scene 8 - Prepared by Danny Barrett

#### **Characters**

- Salanio: friend of Bassanio, Antonio and aid of Lorenzo
- Salorino: friend of Antonio Bassano and aid of Lorenzo.
- Lines: 55

## **Plot progressions**

- Plot 1: salorino says he talked to a French man who said a ship was caught between the French and English channel, as well her was worried if it was antonios. Solanio says they should not tell Antonio yet because it will worry him.
- Plot 2: mentioning Bassanio and Garinto sailing for Belmont to see Portia.
- Antonio is said to have told Bassanio not to worry about his debt to shylock, instead think of love for her.
- (Antonio really thinks the world of bassanio)
- Plot3: discussing the escape of the Lorenzo and Jessica (shylocks daughter)
- mention of "the duke" searching for his daughter on bassonios ship with shylock.

- -although Jessica was spotted on a gondola with Lorenzo.
- 1-3 Salorio asks why he seen bassonio and grantio sailing without Lorenzo and Jessica.
- 4-5salorino says that shylock got the duke to search Bassano's ship
- 6-11 salanio) upon searching the ship the duke finds out Lorenzo and Jessica were seen on a gaondala.
- 12-23 solanio says that that shylock and Jessica's relationship was strange, how instead of worrying about his daughter he cried out for his stolen money (stolen by Jessica)
- 26-27 salonio says the Antonio has to pay off his debt.
- 28-34 salorino says he spoke to a French man who spoke of a ship that sank in the French/ English channel, and is worried that it was antonios.
- 35-36 salanio says salriono can't tell Antonio
- 37-51 salarino says that when bassonio and Antonio parted, Antonio said to not worry about the debt he owes shylock, and all bassonio should worry about is his love for Portia.
- 52-56 solanio and salorino decide to go to Antonio to cheer him up.

#### Scene Purpose:

This scene is used to propel all three plots in one scene. It is effective because describes a lot of events and summarizes entire scenes in less n than 60 lines. As well this scene provides curtail character progression (shylock and money [12-27]), (Antonio and Bassano's bond [37-51]).

#### Theme

the theme of this scene very informative. a conversation between salanio and salarino is used to set up multiple plot lines.

#### **Character progressions**

in this scene we found out that shylock is very greedy and self concerned about his own wealth. We also learn that lorenzo and and jessica are on a gondal together.

# Act 2, Scene 9 - Prepared by Danny Barrett

#### **Summary:**

The men wishing to marry Portia are presented with a challenge, they must pick out of three boxes, gold, silver, and lead. Whichever man picks the one with her picture will marry her immediately but if they pick wrong they must promise to never marry, never tell what box he chose, and must leave right away. The first man, "Arragon", chooses the gold box which turns out to be the wrong one, with a long scroll overall telling him to buzz off. The second applicant arrives bearing gifts and Nerissa exclaims how she hopes it is Bassanio coming for Portia's love.

#### Plot/Conflict:

The main plot of act 2 scene 9 is love between Portia and Arragon. This helps show and develop the conflict of how Portia feels and thinks about people that are of a lesser standing than her. We see this in the way she talks to and about Prince Arragon as if he was dirt and she did not want be associated with him.

## **Character/Character Traits:**

One of the main characters in scene 9 was Portia. She was displayed as a high up noblewoman that was looking for someone to marry, but she did not personally what to marry anyone and was forced to by her dead father. We also got a feeling for how she treated people that she saw as unlikeable. There was also later in the scene, closer to the end, an introduction of Bassanio coming to try and marry Portia. This is importing because we see that when Bassanio's servant shows up with gifts of wealth it instantly finds a way in to Portia's heart.

#### Themes:

The theme of Scene 9 is similar to false hope. I know this because when the suitors came to visit Portia they chose the caskets that looked like they held the most prophet, but in turn they were wrong.