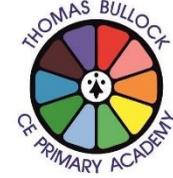




## Thomas Bullock CE Primary Academy

### English – Shakespeare Unit – Merchant of Venice.



#### Home Learning – Year 5 – 27th April – page 2

**Scene 4:** Portia's suitors The Princes of Morocco and Aragon choose the wrong caskets: gold and silver, but Bassanio chooses the right one: **lead**. He is overjoyed and so is Portia. They get married, and his friend Gratiano marries Portia's waiting woman Nerissa at the same time. Nerissa and Portia give their husbands rings, **which they promise to keep forever.**

#### **PORTIA**

...This house, these servants and this same myself

Are yours, my lord. I give them with this ring,

Which when you part from, lose or give away,

Let it presage the ruin of your love

And be my vantage to exclaim on you.

(Puts a ring on his finger)

#### **BASSANIO**

... when this ring Parts from this finger, then parts life from hence.

- 1) What is a casket?
- 2) What is the casket Bassanio chooses made from?
- 3) Lead is a plain metal, practical and useful. Why do you think Shakespeare decided the correct casket should be lead?
- 4) Portia takes the ring from the casket and puts it on Bassanio's finger. Do you think that was the usual thing to happen at that time in history?
- 5) What might that mean about the relationship between Portia and Bassanio?
- 6) The men promise to keep their wedding rings forever. Can you predict what might happen?