

## <u>Thomas Bullock CE Primary Academy</u> <u>English – Shakespeare Unit – Merchant of Venice.</u>



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## **Drama Central!**

Everything seems to be in turmoil. Things are ever simple in Shakespeare plays because he understood that people are never simple. Each person is complex with conflicting feelings and ideas which can be contradictory and confusing.

Think about what we know about the main characters so far:

**Antonio:** He seems to be a kind and thoughtful person and he will do anything for his friends. However, he is prejudiced towards Shylock and treats him terribly. **Is he the kind person people think he is?** 

**Shylock:** He seems to be bitter and vengeful because of the prejudice he is subjected to. However, is very sad because of the loss of his wife years ago and loves his daughter Nerissa very much. **Is he as bad as he seems to be?** 

**Bassanio:** Wants to marry his true love Portia and will do anything to do it. Isn't responsible, he hasn't repaid his earlier loans, because he asks Antonio to lend him money although the risk to Antonio is huge. **Is he the good friend and husband people think he is?** 

**Portia:** Is highly educated & very clever. She is a person who takes action when a problem needs to be solved. She is respectful of her father's wishes. She dresses as a man to help her husband's friend. Is she as honest as people think she is?

Answer these questions in your exercise book or use the 'Drama Central' page. Try to explain what makes you have your opinion.