Thomas Bullock CE Primary Academy

English – Shakespeare Unit – Merchant of Venice.

Home Learning – Year 5 –23rd April – page 2

Scene 2: **Portia**, a rich and beautiful young woman, complains to her waiting-woman, **Nerissa,** that she hates all of the suitors who are seeking to marry her. **Portia**'s father has decreed that she will marry whichever suitor makes the correct choice when presented with three caskets, made of gold, silver and lead. She tells **Nerissa** that she is in love with **Bassanio.**

NERISSA:But what warmth is there in your affection towards any of these princely suitors that are already come?

PORTIA ... There is not one among them but I dote on his very absence, and I wish them a fair departure.

1) What is a suitor?
2) What has Nerissa, her maid, worked out about how she feels about her suitors?
3) Think of three words to describe Portia's personality. Write them down. Are you similar or different? How?
4) Nerissa seems to know her mistress very well; she seems more like a friend. Why do you think this might be?
5) Now have a go at acting the scene out – do you think Nerissa might be teasing Portia a little? How is Portia feeling is she bored, fed-up or excited about the suitors she has seen so far?