

The merchant of Venice Read to understand

A Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1 'I take full responsibility for my actions'

a Who said this? Who was he or she responding to?

Ans Shylock said this. He was responding to portia's speech on mercy.

b What does his response reveal about his or her attitude?

Ans This reveals that shylock was determined to take his Revenge by getting Antonio punished.

2 'That can't happen. There is no power in Venice that can change and establish law.'

a Who spoke these words?

Ans Portia spoke these words.

b Who was the person responding to? Who was the response extracted from?

Ans Portia was responding to Bassanio request to the Duke to bend the law. The Duke was expected to respond.

c What does 'that' refer to in the first sentence?

Ans the lock cant be changed as per our is in favour of someone.

d What reaction does speaker give for 'why that can't happen'?

Ans The change in law will be recorded as precedent and many wrong legal decisions will result.

3 'I beg your honour to declare your verdict'

a Who uttered these words?

Ans Antonio said these words.

b When did the speaker make this request?

Ans *The* speaker made this request after *Shylock* refused their offer of three times the money and *Portia's* request to tear of the contract.

c Why was the speaker in such haste for the judgement to be declared?

Ans Because he was sure that Shylock would take revenge and the Court's proceedings also seem to go in favour of Shylock.

4 'Is that what the agreement says?'

a Who asked this question?

Ans Shylock asked this question

b Who was it addressed to?

Ans The question was addressed to Portia.

c What aspect of the agreement was the speaker referring to? why did he or she asked this question?

Ans The speaker was referring to having a surgeon present at the time when a Pound of flesh would be taken from Antonio. *He* asked this question *because Portia* called the surgeon to be present to attend to Antonio and *Shylock* was supposed to pay the surgeon but he was sure it was not in the agreement.

Number **these events in the order that they happened in the play**

- 1 Antonio borrowed a huge sum of money from shylock .
- 2 Antonio could not repay the money because his ship sank.
- 3 Shylock took Antonio to court and refused to show Mercy.
- 4 Shylock was offered three times the amount borrowed.
- 5 Bassanio accused Shylock of being evil and malicious.
- 6 Sherlock said there was no power in the tongue of a man to change his mind.
- 7 The court awarded a Pound of flesh to be extracted without shedding a drop of blood.
- 8 Shylock agree to take the principal amount.
- 9 Portia punish shylock for attempting to kill Antonio.
- 10 Half of Shylock's wealth was willed to his daughter and son-in-law.

Answer these questions.

1 Why do you think shylock refused to have a surgeon attend to Antonio?

Ans He refused to have a surgeon to attend to Antonio because shylock wanted Antonio to die.

2 How did Portia use Shylock's terms of agreement to save Antonio's life?

Ans Portia referred Shylock's agreement in which a Pound of flesh was expressly stated but no blood was mentioned so Portia insisted and said that since the agreement did not mention blood Shylock could not remove any blood from Antonio's body and it was very difficult for Shylock to cut exactly one pound of flesh without shedding a single drop of blood.

3 Did Shylock's opinion of Portia as the most learned judge change? Why? When do you think this change of opinion would have come about?

Ans Shylock's opinion of Portia changed after he realised he could not fulfill the terms i.e. cutting exactly one pound of flesh without shedding a single drop of blood.

4 Why do you think Portia insisted on the penalty and the agreement?

Ans Portia did not respond to the appeals to show mercy and insisted on his agreement that is why Portia insisted on penalty and the agreement.

5 Do you think the Duke was just and merciful? Why?

Ans The Duke was just and merciful because when Portia subjected Shylock for conspiring against the citizen of Venice he pardoned Shylock and granted him his life.

Grammar

B Identify and *change* the voice of the sentences.

1 *His* favourite comic is being read by him.

2 *Where have* my shoes been kept by you.

3 *Many* party games will be played by us.

4 *My* father built this house.

5 *The* radio *will* always be repaired by Raymond.

6 *The* stolen jewels could not be found out by the police.

7 *All* our friends *have* been invited for the party by us.

8 *Why* they are wasting so much paper.