

THE LITERARY CLUB

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Club Chat

In order to give members at a distance an equal chance with those living nearer our office of publication, the time for returning answers will hereafter be one month. Those requiring a text book for the lessons on the Merchant of Venice are reminded that this will be furnished by the editor of this department for 25 cents, postpaid. Notice also that several prizes are now being offered in each contest. Every reader of *The Farming World* is invited to take part in any or all of the contests.

Character Study

One of the important points in studying a play is character study. We should endeavor to get as clear as possible a conception of the traits of character of the different persons mentioned in the play. To us they should be real live persons and we should feel that we know them. There are many ways of arriving at these character estimates. Just as in real life, we must depend largely on what the persons say, on what they do, and on what others say about them. Sometimes very trifling incidents show up strongly some point of character. Watch carefully, therefore, every speech and every action.

The Merchant of Venice

LESSON TWO.

This Act carries along the story of the caskets, also introduces another minor action—the elopement of Jessica. Bassanio reaches Belmont. Antonio's ill-fortune begins. Notice that there are many scenes on account of the complexity of action. The introduction of the comic element by Launcelot delays the action. There is no great progress in the development of any character. The new characters which are introduced are depicted with such skill as to stand out distinctly from each other. Launcelot's humor consists largely of word play, and touches of irony. Lines 35-49, Scene VIII. Salario's description of Antonio, should be memorized. Study thoroughly all unfamiliar words and passages, and follow the lines indicated in the introductory hints.

STUDY QUESTIONS.

1. Make incision for your love. What was the custom?
2. What was Portia's opinion of Morocco?
3. What was Morocco's estimate of himself?
4. What is the spirit of Scene II.?
5. Why is the element (4) introduced?
6. What are the features of Launcelot's humor?
7. What words does Launcelot misuse and what are the correct words?
8. What is a masque?
9. What was Launcelot's part in the elopement?
10. How was Jessica disunited?
11. What was Jessica's offspring?

12. What was Shylock's opinion of Launcelot?
13. Upon what did Morocco base his choice?
14. Why is the loss of Antonio's ship mentioned?
15. What is Salario's estimate of Antonio?
16. What difference of character is there between Arragon and Morocco? (Note the way in which each takes his defeat.)
17. How many Scenes in Act II.?
18. Compare with Act I.
19. What are the characters in each Scene?
20. What is the purpose of each Scene?
21. What is the progress of the action in Act II.?
22. What examples of irony are found?
23. What was in each casket?
24. What was written on each scroll?

EXERCISE TWO.

1. Describe briefly the progress of the play in this Act.
 2. Explain, giving connection:—
(a) The shadow'd liverly of the burnished sun.
(b) My father did something snack, did something grow to, he had a kind of taste.
(c) Tears exhibit my tongue.
(d) The scarfed bark puts forth from her native bay.
(e) 'Tis an office of discovery.
 3. Write notes on: Sophy, Alcides, ostent, masque, Hyrcanian, cerecloth.
 4. What was Bassanio's estimate of Gratiano?
 5. Compare the character of Morocco and Arragon.
 6. (a) Quote Salario's speech on the parting of Antonio and Bassanio.
(b) Re-write the above speech in your own words.
 7. Give briefly the story of Jessica's elopement.
- Three prizes of suitable books will be given for best answers.

Conducting a Debate

Place in the hands of the chairman a written statement of the topic of debate, names of the speakers, time allotted to each, names of the judges; then be bound strictly by his ruling and no disagreements are likely to arise.

The leader of the affirmative should open the question by stating the topic for debate. He should define it very fully before presenting the arguments for his side of the case.

The leader of the negative then states his general view of the topic, puts forth his arguments, and closes by trying to offset the arguments of the previous speaker.

The second speaker for the affirmative should then follow with the points of the argument entrusted to him. He can also attack anything

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which the leader of the negative has said.

The second speaker for the negative takes up his points and also rebuts anything he can which the onoposite side has said. And so the speeches go on. Two or three good speakers on each side is sufficient. The debate is closed by the leader of the affirmative in a very short address.

Then the judges sum up their decision. A good plan for judging is to allow 50 per cent. for argument (repetition of argument should not count and mere statements, should not be considered as argument), 25 per cent. should be allowed for language, including grammar, rhetoric and pronunciation, and 25 per cent. for manner of delivery, ease of speaking and personal bearing generally.

Quotation Puzzle

Below you will find six quotations from different poems. Give the name of the author and name of the poem. Three prizes of suitable books will be given for the three best lists of answers:—

1. The light that never was on sea or land.
2. Daughter am I in my mother's house, But mistress in my own.
3. Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control, These three alone lead life to sovereign power.
4. No sleep till morn when youth and pleasure meet, To chase the glowing hours with flying feet.
5. Full many a flower is born to blush unseen.
6. Even his failings leaned to virtue's side.

Book Notes

"Satan Sanderson" (Hallie Ermie Rives: McLeod and Allen, Toronto) is a story of a young clergyman who earned his nickname from his wildness in his college days. He becomes a successful and exemplary clergyman, but circumstances bring about an entanglement in the affairs of a former college friend and curious and thrilling complications arise from mistaken identity and an accident causing loss of memory on part of the hero. Altogether the book is one which holds the reader's attention to the finish.

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