

162 SUBJECTS FOR SHORT CLASS COMPOSITIONS

16. The Choice of the Caskets as a Test of Character.
 17. Bassanio's Reasons for Choosing the Leaden Casket.
 18. "The Casket Scene is the dramatic centre of the play."
 19. Antonio's Fortunes (his wealth ; his confidence ; the news of his losses).
 20. Portia's Plans to help Antonio (her arrangements regarding her house, her journey, her message to Bellario).
 21. How Shylock Justifies his Treatment of Antonio.
 22. Portia's Conduct of the Trial Scene.
 23. Shylock's Punishment.
 24. Lorenzo and Jessica (Tubal's story ; why they came to Belmont).
 25. The Rings' Story.
 26. Gratiano (the part he plays in *The Merchant of Venice*).
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