

(b) Point out details of the scene that serve to leave the impression that Antonio is running a serious risk in signing such a bond as Shylock proposes.

7. Mention the purposes served in the play by Launcelot.

8. Give an outline of what is said and done in the scene in which Bassanio makes choice of the caskets, from his entrance to the point where he is congratulated by his friends.

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1. (a) Show how Shakespeare brings out progressively in the Trial scene the evil of Shylock's nature, so that he should merit his punishment in the main.

(b) Show, by comparing the speeches of the three suitors, that the choice of the caskets is a test of character.

2. (a) Nerissa believed that the "lottery" of the caskets was a "good inspiration" of Portia's father. (i) State the conditions of the "lottery." (ii) What evidence is there in the play that her faith in the "inspiration" was justified?

(b) What is the dramatic purpose in *The Merchant of Venice* of (i) Antonio's melancholy, Act I., Scene 1; (ii) the arrival, immediately after Bassanio has chosen successfully, of Antonio's letter telling him that his "bond to the Jew is forfeit?"

(c) What are the two chief motives of Shylock? Do they ever conflict with each other? If so, which proves the stronger? Give references to support your answer in each case.

3. (a) What is the dramatic purpose of the speeches of the three suitors of Portia, made immediately before they choose? Support your answer by references to the speeches.

(b) "Shylock says the finest things in the play and he has the advantage in the argument throughout." Show, by references to the play, how far you think this statement is justified by the facts.

4. (a) What qualities in the character of Shylock are exhibited (i) in Act I., Scene 3, where Bassanio and Antonio come to borrow the money; (ii) in Act II., Scene 5, where Shylock tells Jessica he