

Merchant of Venice Act 2, sc. 7-9

DIRECTIONS: We will use this opportunity to practice both close reading and thorough response writing. The answers you write to the questions below should contain a claim using key words from the prompt, blended and attributed text evidence, and two sentences of elaboration that discuss the evidence provided and its significance. Transitions wouldn't hurt either. 😊 See the example below. If you read all of this, you should also put a fun/funny (yet appropriate) picture at the bottom of this document.

Question: Why is Jessica embarrassed in scene 6?

Response: Shylock's daughter Jessica is embarrassed by her appearance in scene 6 as she leaves to elope with Lorenzo. When she tells Lorenzo she is "much ashamed of her exchange," many believe this is her shame in stealing her father's money as she leaves his house. (Act II, sc. 6, li. 36) However, the word *exchange* here actually refers to her change in appearance, as she had to dress up like a young torchbearer to flee town. She reveals herself in this moment as a vain girl who is embarrassed to not look as beautiful as she could for her fiance Lorenzo.

Choose one of the scene 7 questions to answer!

Scene 7 Questions:

1. Why does the Prince of Morocco choose as he does? Be sure to explain also why he does not choose the other two.
2. Discuss the theme of the poem on the scroll.

Response:

Choose one of the scene 8 questions to answer!

Scene 8 Questions:

1. How is Shylock characterized in this scene?
2. How is Antonio characterized in this scene?

Response:

Scene 9 question:

1. Discuss Portia's response to the Prince of Arragon's choice in lines 85-87.