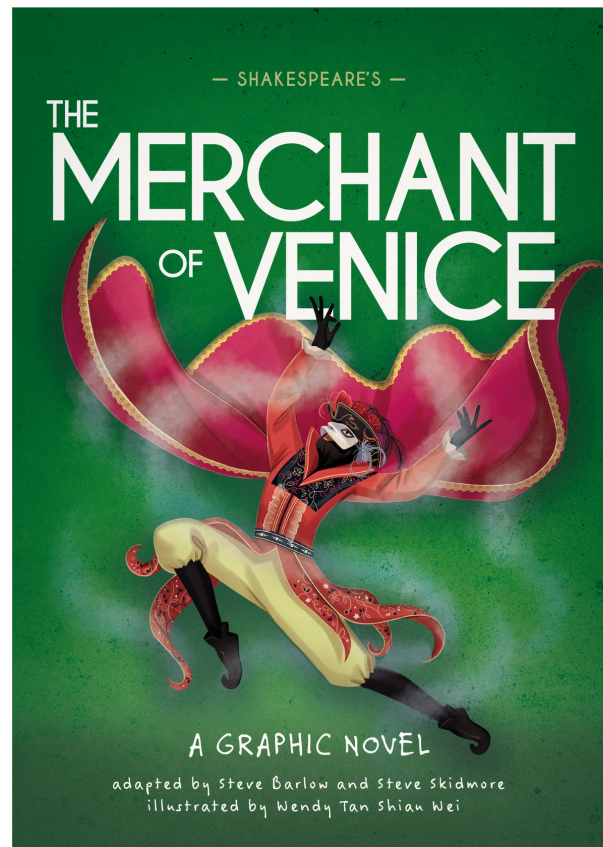




Teaching Notes & Resources

Key Stage 3

Themes: Shakespeare | English Literature | Graphic novels

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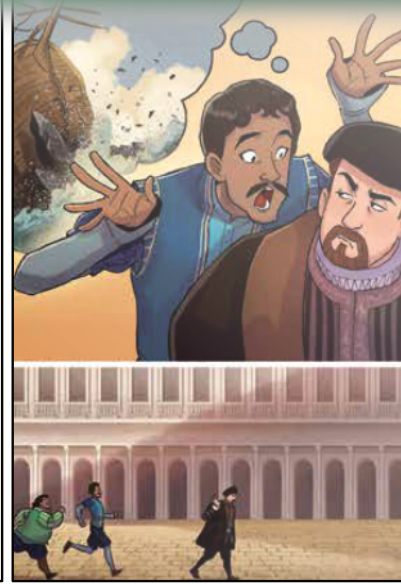
Discussion Questions



— SHAKESPEARE'S —
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

ACT 1

- Why do you think Antonio is sad at the start of the play?
- How would you describe Bassanio's friendship with Antonio? Why is he willing to borrow money?
- What do you think about the agreement between Antonio and Shylock? Is it fair? Why or why not?
- How do you think Shylock feels about Antonio? What clues tell you this?



ACT 2

- Why do you think Portia's father made the casket test for suitors?
- How might you feel if you were Portia and could not choose your own husband?
- Why do you think Jessica wants to leave her father? How might this affect Shylock?
- Which casket do you think you would choose if you were a suitor, and why?



ACT 3

- Why do you think Antonio is worried about his ships? How does this affect the bond with Shylock?
- How do Bassanio and Portia's feelings for each other develop in Belmont?
- How do you feel about Shylock after Jessica runs away with Lorenzo? Why?
- What do you think the pound of flesh represents? Is Shylock asking for too much?



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Discussion Questions



— SHAKESPEARE'S —
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

ACT 4

- What would you do if you were in Antonio's position?
- How does Portia solve the problem in the courtroom? Do you think her solution is clever or unfair?
- Why is mercy important in this scene? Can you think of a time when showing mercy is difficult but necessary?
- How do you feel about Shylock's punishment? Is it fair or too harsh?



ACT 5

- How do Portia and Nerissa trick their husbands with the rings? Why do you think they do this?
- How do you think Bassanio and Gratiano feel when they realise they have been tricked?
- What do you think the ending of the play tells us about friendship, love, and justice?
- Which character do you like the most by the end of the play, and why?



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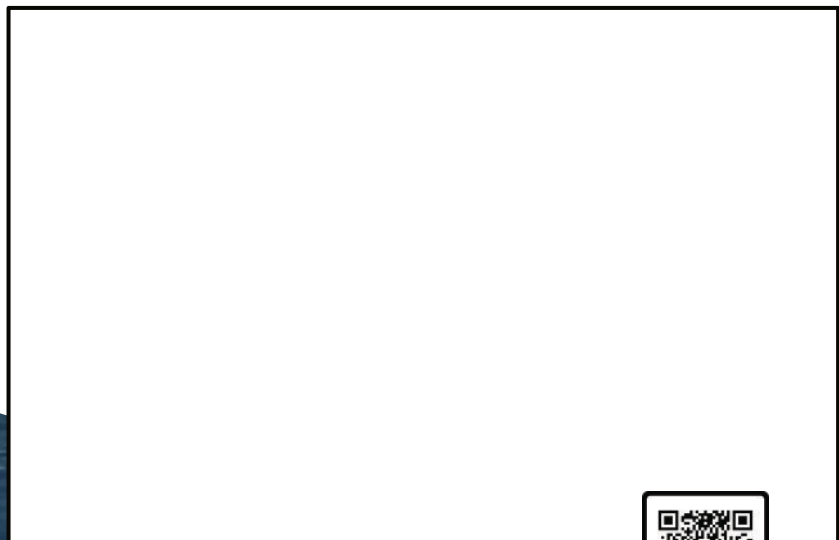
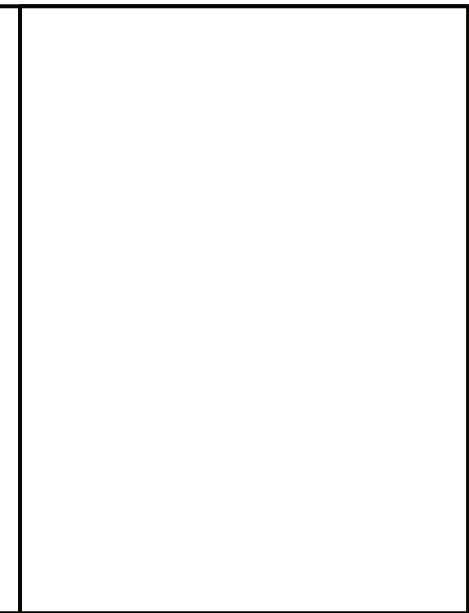
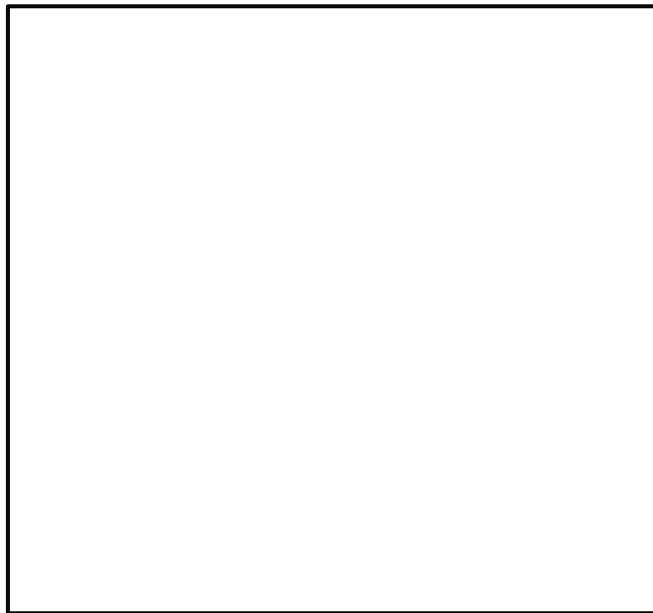
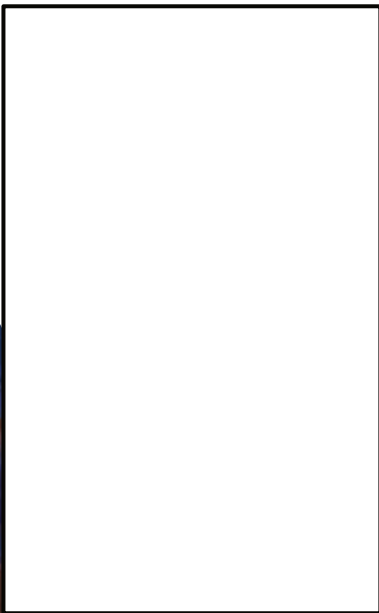
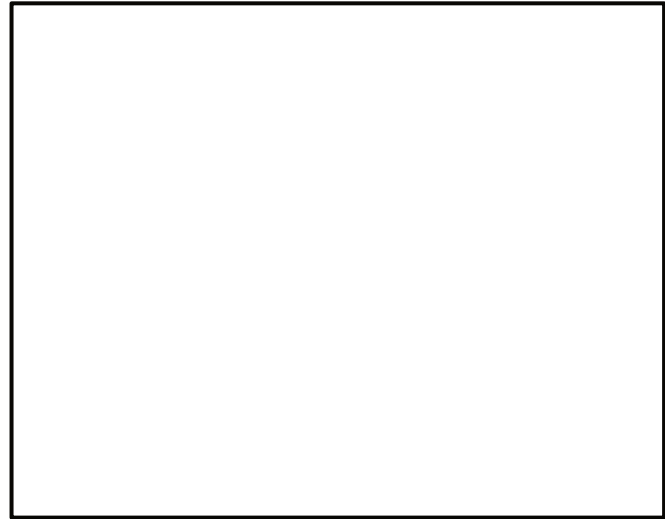
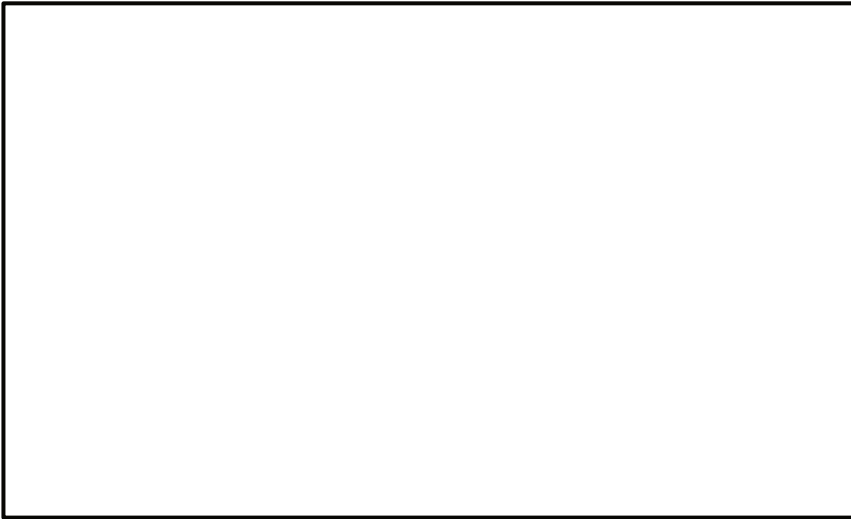
Graphic Novel



— SHAKESPEARE'S —
THE
MERCHANT
OF
VENICE

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Take a scene from the *Classics in Graphics: The Merchant of Venice* graphic novel and think about how it could have played out differently. Write and illustrate your alternative scene.

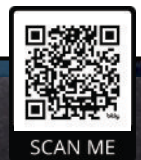


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Character Study Portia



— SHAKESPEARE'S —
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While reading *Classics in Graphics: The Merchant of Venice*, gather information about the character, Portia. You should add to each category as the story develops and you learn more about her.



What do you know about Portia?

What is Portia's relationship with her father and her suitors?



How does Portia change as the story progresses?



How does Portia make you feel as a reader?

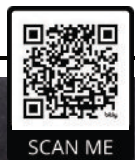


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