

The Merchant of Venice

Projects

Throughout the course of our unit on Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, you will be required to choose two of the following...

1. **Diorama** – Study what a Shakespearean theatre looked like during Shakespeare's time (for example, The Globe). Create a diorama of a Shakespearean theatre.
2. **Dramatic Reading** – Take one of the soliloquies (extended speech) in *The Merchant of Venice* and perform it as a dramatic reading in front of the class. For full credit, speech must be memorized, although it can be read for a deduction.
3. **Skit of a Scene** – This one can be done in groups. Pick an average length scene from *The Merchant of Venice* and act it out. Make a video recording of it and bring it in to be shown to the class.
4. **Shakespearean Clothing** – Research traditional Shakespearean clothing and either bring in a traditional Shakespearean outfit to show or to wear (extra points if you wear it) or write a 2 page paper describing what kind of clothes are traditionally worn during his plays.
5. **Themes** – On p. 223 of your book there are questions pertaining to themes in *The Merchant of Venice*. Write a 2 page paper answering one of them.
6. **Soliloquy** – These extended speeches in Shakespeare's plays usually give great insight into a character. Choose one soliloquy from the book and write a 1-2 page paper describing what that speech reveals about that particular character.

7. **Compare & Contrast** – We are reading the modern English version of the play. How does it compare and contrast to the traditional English? Choose a scene from the book and write a 1-2 page paper comparing and contrasting some of the language in the modern English as opposed to the Shakespearean English. How is it similar? How is it different? Is the modern English easier to understand all the time? Does the modern English help you understand the Shakespearean English version better? Does the Shakespearean English version say something that the modern English version left out?
8. **Interpretation** – Take a soliloquy from *The Merchant of Venice* and write your own modern English translation of it. Refer to the Shakespearean English version, and use the modern English version as a guide. However, your translation should be line by line based off the older version.
9. **References** – Shakespeare likes to reference other literary works in his plays. Choose 5 of these references, research what they mean, and write a 2 page paper describing their meaning.
10. **Test Maker** – Write a 30 question test on *The Merchant of Venice*. Questions could be short-answer, multiple choice, true/false, or essay. All questions must be relevant to the study of the play. Must be turned in with both an answer key and a copy without the answers.

Due date for both projects – February 4th