



The Merchant of Venice Driving Questions

Driving Questions	Initial Answer	Final Answer
Contrast Antonio and Bassanio in terms of how they treat other people. Are you more like Antonio or Bassanio?	Text evidence:	Text evidence:
Shylock and Antonio both treat one another with scorn and distaste. Which character is more empathetic? Explain.	Text evidence:	Text evidence:
What do you learn about Shylock in Act 2, scene 5? Would you consider him to be a moral person?	Text evidence:	Text evidence:
What does Shylock's "Hath not a Jew . . ." speech in Act 3, scene 1 tell you about humanity in Venice?	Text evidence:	Text evidence:

How do you interpret Shylock's insistence on taking a pound of Antonio's flesh instead of the large sum of money he is offered? What interests drive Shylock?	Text evidence:	Text evidence:
Do Portia's actions toward Shylock in Act 4, scene 1, show mercy, a lack of mercy, or both? Explain.	Text evidence:	Text evidence:
Which character in the play demonstrates the most compassion and humanity?	Text evidence:	Text evidence: