



The Merchant of Venice Venice Versus Belmont

In *The Merchant of Venice*, William Shakespeare deliberately alternates between two very different worlds: Venice and Belmont. Why does he make this choice?

In column 1: Find and read the cited passage in the play.

In column 2: Write a summary of the passage.

In column 3: Briefly note what the passage reveals about the locale.

When you have completed the chart, read and respond to the prompt.

Scene/Location Described	Summary	What This Tells You About Locale
No Fear: 1.1.163–178 Belmont		
No Fear: 1.1.179–187 Venice	<i>Antonio's money is tied up in his merchant ships, so he will try to borrow money for Bassanio to woo Portia.</i>	<i>Venice depends on merchant ships, trade, and finance.</i>
No Fear: 2.9.4–8 Belmont		
No Fear: 3.1.1–8 Venice		
No Fear: 3.2.40–53 Belmont		

No Fear: 3.2.150–175 Belmont		
No Fear: 3.2.250–270 Venice		
No Fear: 3.3.26–36 Venice		
No Fear: 5.1.49–66 Belmont		

Write a paragraph either supporting or refuting this statement: *Venice represents gritty realism, while Belmont is an idealistic land where fairy tales can come true.* Use your completed chart and your knowledge of the settings from your reading to inform your response.

RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

RL.9-10.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

W.9-10.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Answer Key

Sample Student Response

I agree with this statement. The main activities in Venice all revolve around commerce, trade ships, and money. The law is inflexible, even when it comes to legal murder, because so many foreign powers do business in Venice. Belmont, by contrast, is a hidden land where Portia lives like a princess. Royal suitors play a mysterious game to vie for her hand in marriage. Music is everywhere in Belmont, and the world seems at peace there.