



Year 8: Term 4

<u>The Merchant of Venice - Shakespeare</u>		Subject specific terminology							
<p><b>Key Themes in The Merchant of Venice</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Friendship</td> <td>Mercy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Love</td> <td>Prejudice</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wealth and possessions</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 		Friendship	Mercy	Love	Prejudice	Wealth and possessions		<p><b>1. Social</b></p> <p>Relating to human society and the interaction between the individual and the group</p>	
		Friendship	Mercy						
Love	Prejudice								
Wealth and possessions									
<p><b>Features of a comedy</b></p> <p>Happy resolution, usually ending in marriage</p> <p>Witty dialogue and playful language such as puns and malapropisms</p> <p>Clever plot twists and multiple plot lines</p> <p>Mistaken identities often causing confusion and chaos and usually involves disguise</p> <p>Some element of separation and then reunification between lovers</p> <p>Characters who play the fool and clown around and/or clever servants</p> <p>Disregard for social order</p> <p>Main action is about love</p> 		<p><b>2. Historical</b></p> <p>Concerning history and past events</p>							
		<p><b>3. Merchant</b></p> <p>Someone who trades goods for money. Merchants would borrow money from moneylenders to trade.</p>							
		<p><b>4. Stereotypes</b></p> <p>a fixed general image or set of characteristics that a lot of people believe represent a particular type of person or thing.</p>							
		<p><b>5. Mercy</b></p> <p>compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.</p>							
		<p><b>6. Prejudice</b></p> <p>preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.</p>							
		<p><b>7. Anti-Semitism</b></p> <p>hostility to or prejudice against Jewish people.</p>							
		<p><b>8. Patriarchy</b></p> <p>a social system in which positions of dominance and privilege are held by men.</p>							
		<p><b>9. theme</b></p> <p>the bigger ideas and messages in a text</p>							
		<p><b>10. Rialto</b></p> <p>Commercial and trading centre of Venice</p>							
		<p><b>11. Ghetto</b></p> <p>A poor area occupied by a minority group</p>							
		<p><b>12. Sonnet</b></p> <p>A poetic form of 14 lines, 10 syllables per line, written in iambic pentameter. Subject matter: traditionally, love</p>							
		<p><b>13. Blank verse</b></p> <p>Verse without rhyme, usually uses iambic pentameter. In Shakespeare's plays, high status characters use blank verse.</p>							
		<p><b>14. Iambic pentameter</b></p> <p>The rhythm consisting of 5 iambic feet. An unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable. Mimics beating of our hearts. "But, soft, what light through yonder window breaks?" When Shakespeare breaks iambic pentameter, he is giving a clue such as the emotional state of a character.</p>							

		<b>15. tone</b>	attitude of the writer about the subject matter; the way a narrator/character feels about a situation. Tone affects the mood and atmosphere of a text
		<b>16. allusion</b>	When a reference is made in one text to a famous story or piece of literature including classical mythology. In MoV, an allusion is made to Jason and the Argonauts
		<b>17. malapropism</b>	the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar-sounding one, often with an amusing effect
<b>Drama Subject Terminology</b>		<b>18. dramatic irony</b>	When the audience knows what a character does not.
<b>Freeze Frame</b>	Acting out a scene and freezing in a particular moment to capture something of significance.	<b>19. Dialogue exposition</b>	Using a conversation between characters to reveal important information or a back story.
<b>Aside</b>	When a character addresses an audience directly to express a feeling or a truth,	<b>20. oxymoron</b>	When two contrasting terms/conflicting ideas are put together e.g. Juliet: 'Happy dagger.'
<b>Drama</b>	A play for theatre, radio or television	<b>21. ducat</b>	A gold coin of various European countries (earlier times)
<b>Staging</b>	The action and method of presenting a play on the stage	<b>22. cliché</b>	a phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought e.g. 'a woman's place is in the home'
<b>Italics</b>	A typeface for example: <i>this is written in italics</i>	<b>23. semantic field</b>	collection of words which are related to one another be it through their similar meanings, or through a more abstract relation.
<b>Stage directions</b>	an instruction in the text of a play indicating the movement, position, or tone of an actor, or the sound effects and lighting.	<b>24. pun</b>	A way of using words and language playfully. Sometimes it is based on homophones – words with the same pronunciation but with a different meaning. 'a bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.'
<b>Act</b>	A section of a play and is made up of shorter scenes. Characterised by exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.	<b>25. Usury</b>	Lending money at high rates of interest (borrowing £50 but having to return £150 for example)
<b>scene</b>	Represents actions happening in one place at one time and is marked off from the next scene by a curtain, a blackout, or a brief emptying of the stage.	<b>26. Social class</b>	Division of society based on social and economical status (how much wealth your family has and the type of family you are born into)

<b>character</b>	A person in a novel, play or film.	<b>27. triplet/list of three</b>	Story telling principle which involves grouping or listing three elements together for impact and emphasis
<b>Play</b>	A theatrical performance acted out on the stage	<b>28. soliloquy</b>	Character stands alone on stage and addresses the audience giving voice to their thoughts and feelings.
<b>Playwright</b>	A person who writes plays.	<b>29. foreshadowing</b>	When a writer gives clues about events to come
<b>Playscript</b>	The manuscript of a play: a piece of writing written for the actors to perform and use in rehearsals.	<b>30. imagery</b>	Use of language which is visually descriptive and vivid.
Theatre	building or outdoor area in which plays and other dramatic performances are given	<b>31. rhyming couplet</b>	Pair of successive lines where the end words typically rhyme
<b>Character Archetypes in The Merchant of Venice</b>			
<b>Archetype</b>	a very typical example of a certain person or thing.	<b>32. allusion</b>	An indirect reference to another event or author or author's work. Shakespeare makes many allusions to classical mythology.
<b>Protagonist</b>	Character who drives the action and most of the plot revolves around. The reader usually emphasises with this character. They often do have flaws as well and are not perfect.	<b>33. Juxtaposition</b>	Literary technique where a writer places two things close to each other to show the similarity or difference between them.
<b>Malcontent</b>	Dissatisfied in life with financial status, social status or their love life.	<b>34. dramatic monologue</b>	a poem written in the form of a speech of an individual character; it compresses into a single vivid scene a narrative sense of the speaker's history and psychological insight into his character. Usually part of dialogue or a conversation with other characters.
<b>Antagonist</b>	Competitor or rival of the protagonist. Usually portrayed as the villain. Cause conflict to create dramatic tension.		
<b>The lover</b>	Chases a love in the play. Ideal man expected to be perfect in all areas; usually chivalrous and eloquent when it comes to courtship [trying to marry someone]		
<b>The fool</b>	Usually a character with a lower social status. The role usually offers comic relief though Shakespeare does challenge this sometimes. Launcelot Gobbo plays the fool in the MOV.		