

WELLAND GOULDSMITH SCHOOL

Class 8.

English Literature

Study Material

'The Merchant of Venice' is a very famous sixteenth century play written by the famous playwright William Shakespeare. It is a romantic comedy which contains a number of romantic and comic elements. This play however has a serious and even tragic ingredient. The love of Bassanio and Portia and the manner in which Bassanio wins the hand of Portia are undoubtedly romantic. The clowning of Launcelot and the wit of Portia and some of the traits of Shylock, the Jew are undoubtedly comic. But 'The Trial Scene', in the course of which Antonio comes very close to losing his life is undoubtedly tragic. We even find the ultimate fate of Shylock to be somewhat tragic. Yet, the mingling of these various elements in the same play does not give rise to any incongruity or disharmony. 'The Merchant of Venice' is one of Shakespeare's most brilliant, most entertaining, most delightful and most original plays.

Worksheet

Answer the following questions:

Question 1) Write about the theme of the play 'The Merchant of Venice'

Question 2) What religious antagonism do we notice between Shylock and Antonio at the very beginning of the play?