

WELLAND GOULDSMITH SCHOOL

English Language

Class 8

Answers

WORKSHEET

Q1) How is Antonio introduced in Act 1, Scene 1 of the play 'The Merchant of Venice'?

Answer 1) Act 1, Scene 1 of the play opens with a scene in Belmont where we are introduced to two important characters of the play namely Antonio and Bassanio. Some of their common friends like Gratiano, Lorenzo, Solanio and Salarino are also introduced to the audience (readers). We see that Antonio, the merchant of Venice is in a state of despondency the reason of which is quite unfamiliar to him too. His friends Solanio and Salarino suggest possible reasons among which they think the safety of his merchant ships on board could be the cause. But Antonio dismisses their suggestions and says that he plays the part of a sad individual in this world which he considers to be a stage.

Q2) What do we come to know about Bassanio from Act 1, Scene 1 of the play?

Answer 2) As Bassanio enters the scene along with Lorenzo and Gratiano, Solanio and Salarino make their exit. We come to know that Bassanio is in need of money as he has squandered away all his wealth by being a spendthrift. He wishes to make a trip to Belmont to win the hand of the rich heiress of Belmont in the name of Portia. He believes that his luck would surely favour him if he can make a place among the renowned suitors who have come to win Portia in marriage. Antonio however has no cash at that moment to lend him and tells him to contact some money lender in Venice and borrow the required sum from him in Antonio's name which might suffice his present needs.