

# 19 - A HAPPY ENDING?

To what extent does *The Merchant of Venice* end happily?

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit [this page](#).
- A copy of Act 5 Scene 1 from *The Merchant of Venice*, to read either on the page or onscreen.

## ACTIVITY

- Read the opening section of Act 5 Scene 1 between Jessica and Lorenzo, up to Jessica's line, "And ne'er a true one."
- Read aloud what Jessica says at the end of this section, as if she is in love, teasing Lorenzo.
- Read what she says again, as if she is regretting leaving her home and culture for Lorenzo.
- Ask yourself: How well do you think they Jessica and Lorenzo knew each other when she ran away from home? What do you predict for their future together?
- Visit the Shakespeare Learning Zone [here](#). Click on 'The Resolution' to investigate the ending of the play. Look at the picture gallery and work through the 'things to consider'.
- Find the place in Act 5 Scene 1, where Portia says, "Here is a letter, read it at your leisure". Read from there to the end of the scene.
- Write a list of everything that happens in that section of the scene in the order that it happens.
- Using a separate piece of paper for each character who is on stage at the end of the play, write their names down.
- On each character's piece of paper, write their secret feelings and thoughts at the end of the play.
- Arrange the character papers that you can into couples. Where would you put the other characters in relation to the couples?
- Make another piece of paper for Shylock. List what he has lost by the end of the play. The Duke has ordered that he should convert to Christianity at the end of Act 4 Scene 1. Write Shylock's secret thoughts and feelings on his character paper. Place Shylock in relation to the other characters.
- Ask yourself: To what extent does *The Merchant of Venice* end happily?
- Take a photograph of your arrangement.

## EXTENSION

- Using your photograph and what you have found out from investigating the ending of *The Merchant of Venice*, design a storyboard for a comic book or graphic novel.

- Use as many panels or frames in your storyboard as you need to show the whole ending of the play. Remember to include lines from the play and the characters' thoughts, as well as their actions.