

20 - THE THEMES

What are the themes in *The Merchant of Venice*?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Pieces of paper, a notebook, and something to write or draw with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit these pages on [Language Analysis](#) and [Themes](#) of the play.

ACTIVITY

- Visit the Language Analysis page on the RSC Learning Zone [here](#). Click on 'analysing themes'. Three of the main themes of *The Merchant of Venice* are included on that page.
- Read the information and advice for exploring each theme.
- There are other themes in the play to explore. Visit the RSC website [here](#) to find out more.
- Select the theme from the play which is the most relevant and important to you.
- Make a collage which explores that theme. You must include quotes from the play which are relevant to that theme. Include characters that link to that theme. Include significant props or objects from the play which are relevant to that theme, and draw them. You could find ways of representing characters or props using google images, pictures from old magazines, re-cycled materials or fabric scraps.
- Share your collage with someone, either at home or online. Take them through your creative process and thinking. Make sure you include the quotes you have chosen and why you have chosen them.

EXTENSION

- Repeat this process, to make collages for other themes in the play.
- You could display your collages, thinking about the relationship between the themes.