

# 6 - PREJUDICE

What prejudices are there between Shylock and Antonio?

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit these pages on [Relationships](#) and [Language Analysis](#).
- A copy of Act 1 Scene 3 from *The Merchant of Venice*, to read either on the page or onscreen.

## ACTIVITY

- Visit the Relationship page on the Shakespeare Learning Zone [here](#). Click on 'view the information' and read what it says about Antonio and Shylock.
- Find the place in Act 1 Scene 3 where Shylock says, "Three thousand ducats: I think I may take his bond." Read from there until Antonio says, "Well, Shylock, shall we be beholding to you?"
- Make a list of any facts: things that you find out from the script which are true. For example, *Shylock is a money lender*.
- Make a list of inferences: things you think might be true. For example, what the characters are feeling.
- Make a list of questions: things you want to know after reading this section.
- Ask yourself: Why won't Shylock eat with Antonio and Bassanio? Why does Shylock disapprove of Antonio lending out money 'gratis'? Why does Antonio say, "The devil can cite scripture for his purpose"?
- Read aloud Shylock's next speech, which begins "Signior Antonio, many a time and oft". Every time you say 'you', point as if you are pointing at Antonio. Every time you say 'I', 'me' or 'mine', touch your heart. Ask yourself: How do the pronouns help us to understand the impact of Shylock's words?
- Write down all the names that Shylock claims Antonio has called him.
- Ask yourself: What prejudices are there between Shylock and Antonio?

## EXTENSION

- Visit the Language Analysis page on the Shakespeare Learning Zone [here](#). Click on 'Analysing Shylock's language', read the information and follow the instructions to read aloud and analyse Shylock's speech from Act 1 Scene 3 in more detail, using RSC rehearsal techniques. You can complete and print the grid if you like, and carry on by clicking, 'What else can I do to analyse Shylock's language?'