**Ms. McLeod**

**ELA B10**

***The Merchant of Venice***

***-William Shakespeare-***

**Collaborative Group Work**

**Merchant of Venice**

Outcome: CC B10.3

Use oral language to express a range of information and ideas in formal (including a prepared talk on a researched issue, an interview, an oral reading of prose or poetry, and an explanation and defence of a personal point of view) and informal (including discussion and group work) situations.   
Participate in small- and large-group discussion, observing the courtesies of group discussion, and demonstrate effective group interaction skills and strategies including:

* + assume some of the work necessary to maintain discussion and advance it (e.g., by summarizing, raising questions, seeking clarification, extracting significant points, making connections, setting agenda).
  + maintain and demonstrate respectful behaviours
  + stick to topic and keep goals in mind
  + listen carefully
  + co-operate by staying positive, waiting turn, and avoiding put-downs
  + disagree respectfully
  + encourage others by trying to understand their ideas and asking for opinions
  + clarify and restate speaker’s ideas to confirm meaning.

-Saskatchewan Curriculum-

* **Task:** Paraphrase **ONE** of the following quotes from *The Merchant of Venice*. A paraphrase is a restatement (rewording) of the idea of a passage in your own words. You may use an illustration to represent your ideas. Your group will share your ideas with the rest of the class. Use the poster paper provided.

A paraphrase:

* must be clear and easy to understand.
* must contain all the ideas in the original passage.
* must not contain any thoughts or ideas that are not in the original.
* usually has about the same number of words as the original.

Paraphrase **ONE** of the following quotes (include the name of the speaker):

1. The message in the gold casket, Act 2 scene 7
2. Paraphrase the message in the silver casket, Act 2 scene 9
3. Shylock’s “I am a Jew” speech, Act 3 scene 1 p. 123
4. Portia’s quality of mercy speech, Act 4 scene 1 p. 189

**Sample paraphrase: the message in the lead casket Act 3 scene 2**

**You, who choose not by outward appearance, have been fortunate, because you have chosen wisely. If you are happy with your choice, seek no farther. Turn to your lady and confirm your choice with a loving kiss.**

1. Idiomatic Expression- an expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make it up.

Example: “ball is in your court”

Meaning: it is up to you to make the next decision or step.

**Idiomatic expression that Shakespeare used in The Merchant of Venice:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Act 4 scene 1 line 114 to 118**  I am a tainted wether of the flock,  Meetest for death. The weakest kind of fruit  Drops earliest to the ground, and so let me.  You cannot better be employed, Bassanio,  Than to live still and write mine epitaph. | Meaning:  I’m like the one sick sheep in the flock, the one who deserves to die. The weakest fruit drops to the ground first, so let me drop. Bassanio, the best thing you can do is to keep living and write an epitaph for my gravestone. |

* **Task: Rewrite this passage with a current idiomatic expression of your own.**

1. **allusion:** An indirect reference to a person, place, or event which is intended to call up associations in the minds of persons who have some appreciation of events that occurred in those places. The reference may be historical, mythological, geographical, or Biblical significance. “He used the sledge hammer with Herculean strength.”

**Allusion that Shakespeare used in The Merchant of Venice:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Act 5 scene 1 line 294-295**  Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way of starved people. |

* **Task: In your own words explain the significance of the allusion**

**(look at p. 228).**

**Allusion**

**The Merchant of Venice**

**Biblical References:**

Jesus casts devils into a herd of swine (1.3)  
Jacob and Laban's sheep: [**Genesis 25-35**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+30%3A25-35&version=NIV)**(1.3)**[Jacob](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08261a.htm)'s staff (2.5)  
Hagar's outcast son, Ishmael (2.5)  
"sin of the father...": [Ezekiel 18:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel%2018:20&version=KJV) (3.5)  
Christian husbands sanctify their non-Christian wives: [Corinthians 7:14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+7%3A14&version=NIV) (3.5)  
Barabbas: [Mark 15:6-15](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+15%3A6-15&version=NIV) (4.1)  
"To take my living is to take my life": Ecclesiastes 34:23 (4.1)  
The Apocrypha: [Daniel](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04620a.htm) (4.1)

**Literature, Philosophy, and Mythology:**

Choice of the three caskets lottery, folktales (1.2)  
Pound of flesh story, folktales (1.3)  
[Pythagoras' philosophy of the soul](http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pythagoras/#FatSou) (4.1)  
Christopher Marlowe: Barabas in [The Jew of Malta](http://books.google.com/books?id=FvdDAAAAYAAJ&dq=The%20Jew%20of%20Malta&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false) (4.1)  
William Shakespeare: Troilus and Cressida, Troilus and Cressida (5.1)  
William Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream, Thisby (5.1)  
[Dido](http://www.shmoop.com/aeneid/dido.html) and [Aeneas](http://www.shmoop.com/aeneid/aeneas.html) (5.1)  
[Orpheus](http://www.shmoop.com/metamorphoses/orpheus.html), Ovid, Metamorphoses (5.1)  
[Jason](http://www.shmoop.com/medea/jason.html) (of the quest for the Golden Fleece) (1.1; 3.2)  
[The Cumaean Sibyl](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/c/cumaean_sibyl.html) (1.2)  
[Diana](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/d/diana.html) (1.1; 5.1)  
[Hercules](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/h/hercules.html) (Alcides) and his servant Lichas (2.1; 3.2)  
The Three Sisters/[the Fates](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/m/moirae.html) (2.3)  
[Venus](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/v/venus.html) (2.6)  
[Cupid](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/c/cupid.html) (2.6; 2.9)  
[Mars](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/m/mars.html) (3.2)  
[King Midas](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/m/midas.html) (3.2)  
Dardanian wives (of Troy) (3.2)  
[Scylla and Charybdis](http://www.shmoop.com/ulysses-joyce/scylla-and-charybdis-analysis-summary.html) (3.5)  
[Medea](http://www.shmoop.com/medea/) (5.1)  
[Erebus](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/e/erebus.html) (5.1)  
[Endymion](http://www.pantheon.org/articles/e/endymion.html) (5.1)

## Historical Figures

Portia, wife of the ancient Roman Brutus (1.1)  
Suleiman II the Magnificent (2.1)