**Ms. McLeod**

**ELA B10**

**Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare**

**Merchant of Venice**

**Act I Questions**

***Act I Scene i***

1. **Antonio’s character is revealed in the first line of the play. Briefly describe Antonio.**
2. **Quote the lines that reveal Gratiano as a cheerful character.**
3. **What does Bassanio think of Gratiano? Quote the line.**
4. **Quote the lines that reveal Bassanio as someone who is careless with money.**
5. **“To you Antonio I owe the most in money and in love**

**And from your love I have a warranty to unburden all**

**my plots and purposes how to get clear of all the debts I owe.”**

**(Act I, scene I, 130-40)**

**Do you think Bassanio is honest in this speech, or is he a schemer? Explain.**

1. **What does Bassanio ask Antonio for? Why? Quote the lines which Bassanio uses to explain to Antonio what his purpose is.**
2. **At one point, Bassanio says, “In Belmont is a lady richly left.” (Act I, scene i, line 161) Do you think he is interested in Portia only for her money?**

***Act I Scene ii***

1. **Briefly describe the contest (lottery) Portia’s deceased father has created.**
2. **How does Portia feel about the suitors that have come to Belmont? Briefly describe each suitor.**

***Act I Scene iii***

1. **In scene iii we are introduced to Shylock who is the antagonist in the play. What is an antagonist?**
2. **Briefly describe Shylock.**
3. **Quote the lines in which Shylock reveals that he is plotting to harm Antonio.**
4. **Quote the lines in which Antonio gives his impression of Shylock picturing him for the first time as a villain.**
5. **Define: Gabardine, cur forfeiture**