

Questions for Act III, Scene 1

1. From lines 9-10, what does Solanio mean by "...slips of prolixity...?"
2. Shylock refers to his daughter as "my flesh and blood". How does Salerio respond to that in lines 32-35?
3. Lines 48 – 60 are famous lines from this play. What point is Shylock trying to make in this soliloquy?
4. In lines 70-81, Shylock expresses his anger and concern over his daughter's disappearance. What is he most upset about?
5. In this scene, how many of Antonio's ships have been wrecked at sea? Where were they lost?

Questions for Act III, Scene 2

1. In lines 1-24, why does Portia not want Bassanio to choose too quickly?

2. In line 25, what does Bassanio mean by "... I live upon the rack"? What "rack" do you think that line is suggesting?

3. In Bassanio's long soliloquy from line 73-107, paraphrase the following quotes to explain what he has to say about false courage and vanity...
 - a) "How many cowards, whose hearts are all as false as stairs of sand, wear yet upon their chins the beards of Hercules and frowning Mars: Who, inward searched, have livers white as milk?"

 - b) "Look on beauty, and you shall see 'tis purchased by the weight, which therein works a miracle in nature, making them lightest that wear most of it:"

 - c) "So are those crisped snaky golden locks which make such wanton gambols with the wind, upon supposed fairness, often known to be the dowry of a second head, the skull that bred them in the sepulchre."

4. In lines 197-209, what has happened between Gratiano and Nerissa?

 5. What news is found in the letter that Salerio gives to Bassanio?

 6. Both Salerio and Jessica claim that Shylock doesn't want to be repaid, even if Antonio's fortunes were not lost. What do they believe he wants instead? Why?

 7. How does Portia offer to solve the problem with Shylock?.
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Questions for Act III, Scenes 3, 4 & 5

Scene 3

1. What is Shylock insisting upon in lines 4-10 and 12-17?
2. How does Antonio respond to Shylock's vengeance?

Scene 4

1. In lines 10-35, how does Portia explain to Lorenzo why she feels compelled to help Antonio?
 2. What does Portia tell Lorenzo she and Nerissa are going to do until Bassanio returns from helping Antonio? (lines 31-35)
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3. What are Portia's secret plans? (lines 60-78)

Scene 5

1. Why does Lancelot feel Jessica is "damned"? (lines 1-6)
2. What is her only salvation, according to Lancelot? (lines 8-9)
3. How does Jessica feel about Portia? (lines 63-73)