

## *The Merchant of Venice Critical Analysis Essay on Bondage*

### **Instructions**

- No outside research will be needed. Everything you need you can get from the play *The Merchant of Venice*. Which you can find on the internet to read the full play or just the main parts of the play.
- Cite the lines properly
- Follow MLA format
- Edit grammar and punctuation carefully
- Put the thesis at the end of the introduction
- Use multiple examples, both direct quotations and indirect references. What do these particular examples do to the play? Do they help establish character, further in the plot, contribute to tone or create humor? Discuss the points thoroughly.
- This is a critical analysis paper (not just summarize the play)

\*\*\*site the play *The Merchant of Venice* if possible

### **Thematic analysis**

Start the paper with a short summary of the play *The Merchant of Venice* and end the intro paragraph with a thesis statement that indicates that the concept of bond/bound is an important theme that runs throughout the *Merchant of Venice*.

These are the different types of bondages to talk about throughout the essay paper. They also include notes of the side to help you out. They are in no particular order, so you can rearrange them or possibly combine some.

1. Servitude (bondage): Launcelot/Shylock/Bassanio ; Nerissa/Portia
2. Love/marriage: Portia/Bassanio ; Jessica/Lorenzo ; Shylock/Leah ; Nerissa/Gratiano ; the suitors
3. Friendship: Bassanio/Gratiano ; Portia/Nerissa ; Antonio/Bassanio ; Bassanio's gang
4. Duty: The Duke ; Launcelot/Shylock
5. Family: Bassanio/Antonio ; Jessica/Shylock ; Launcelot/Old Gobbo
6. Legal documents: The bond ; Shylock's will ; the law statutes that Portia cites
7. Physical ropes or shackles: Antonio in court
8. Oaths and promises: Portia's promise to her dad ; Shylock's oath "in heaven" to go through with the murder ; Lorenzo's promise (implied) to Jessica to come for her ; the suitors' oaths to

not marry and tell no one about the caskets ; Bassanio and Gratiano's promise of the rings ; Bassanio's promise to repay Antonio after he marries Portia

9. Religion: Shylock is bound to not eat pork ; Jessica is not supposed to marry a Christian ; Shylock has to wear Jewish gabardine clothing ; Portia's oath is also to heaven