RAISING ACHIEVEMENT · THE MERCHANT OF VENICE · DRILL 1

Three thousand ducats

Shylock

Today: how Shakespeare presents Shylock as a careful businessman with a hidden purpose

25 minutes

Do Now

Know

1. What is a ducat?
2. Who promises to pay Bassanio’s debt if Bassanio cannot?
3. What is an argosy?
4. What did the Church teach about lending money at interest?
5. Where do the merchants of Venice meet to do business?

Do Now: answers

Know

1. What is a ducat?
   A gold coin used in Venice.

2. Who promises to pay Bassanio's debt if Bassanio cannot?
   Antonio, who stands surety for him.

3. What is an argosy?
   A large merchant ship.

4. What did the Church teach about lending money at interest?
   That it was a sin for Christians.

5. Where do the merchants of Venice meet to do business?
   The Rialto.

Focus reminder

Know

What a plan for The Merchant of Venice question looks like

Thesis first: one sentence that answers the question with an idea, not a retelling.

Three points: one from the extract, two from other moments in the play.

Each point gets a short quotation and the method Shakespeare uses.

Add context: usury and the Ghetto, or Venice as a trading city.

Shylock weighs up the loan (1 of 2)

Read

William Shakespeare · 1596–97 · Act 1 Scene 3

SHYLOCK.
Three thousand ducats for three months and Antonio bound.
BASSANIO.
Your answer to that.
SHYLOCK.
Antonio is a good man.
BASSANIO.
Have you heard any imputation to the contrary?
SHYLOCK.
Oh, no, no, no, no: my meaning in saying he is a good man is