



THEME ACTIVITIES

Activities to develop themes and issues

On the '**Week by Week**' part of the website select **Week 1** and listen to the interview with director Bill Buckhurst and web designer Ollie Lindsey talking about creating a mood board for the play.

Next click on **Week 2** and then click on the '**Creative Brief**' and download 'Production Concepts'. On page 2 you will find the 'mood board' they described. Examine this poster in detail and identify the images that have been used. You will see images of products such as perfume and expensive cars as well as *Made in Chelsea* that Ollie described.

Which aspects of the play do you think the designers are emphasising in the production? Which quotes from the play would you add to the mood board? Print out a copy and add your own quotes to the board.

On the '**Week by Week**' part of the website select **Week 2** and then click on the '**Creative Brief**'. Download 'Production Concepts' and on page 3 you will find images from the development of a logo for the production. Notice how the designer has used a £ sign in place of letter 'e' in some designs. Looking back at the mood board on page 2, identify which logos from familiar products have inspired the designer to create the logo for the production.

Now look at images in adverts for expensive products in magazines and design your own logo for the production which emphasises the theme of money and riches in the casket scene.

Next try designing a logo which emphasises a different aspect of the play such as the trial scene. Think about the colours which would be appropriate for the atmosphere of the trial scene. You may want to try using an image of a dagger to replace the letter 't' in your design.

Select the **Language** section on the website. Here you will find some essays about the play. Read the essay entitled '**O, my ducats. O my daughter. The economics of love in The Merchant of Venice**'. Notice how the essay compares Shylock's feelings about his daughter Jessica leaving with Lorenzo and some of Shylock's money with the way in which the caskets are used to select a husband for Portia.

With a partner, discuss your feelings about Shylock's reaction to Jessica's leaving and the way Portia's dead father's will forces her to select a husband. Next, create a thought diagram by placing the words Money and Love in the middle of a piece of paper and writing around the words all the ways that money and wealth link with love in the play.



**GLOBE
EDUCATION**

**PLAYING SHAKESPEARE
WITH DEUTSCHE BANK**

On the homepage find the interviews with the director of the play **Bill Buckhurst** and select the **'Theme'** interview. Watch up to time code 2:15 where Bill talks about the audience's reactions to the casket test Portia's father sets.

Discuss with a friend and decide why you think Portia's father sets the test before he dies. What positive benefits of the test can you identify?

On the homepage find the interviews with the director of the play **Bill Buckhurst** and select the **'Theme'** interview. Watch the interview from time code 4:15 where Bill describes the way in which many of the characters feel isolated, or as Bill says "*not part of the group*".

Create a poster or wall display showing each of the characters or add to an existing 'Role on the Wall' display. Annotate the characters such as Portia, Shylock, Jessica and Antonio showing how they are isolated in the play.