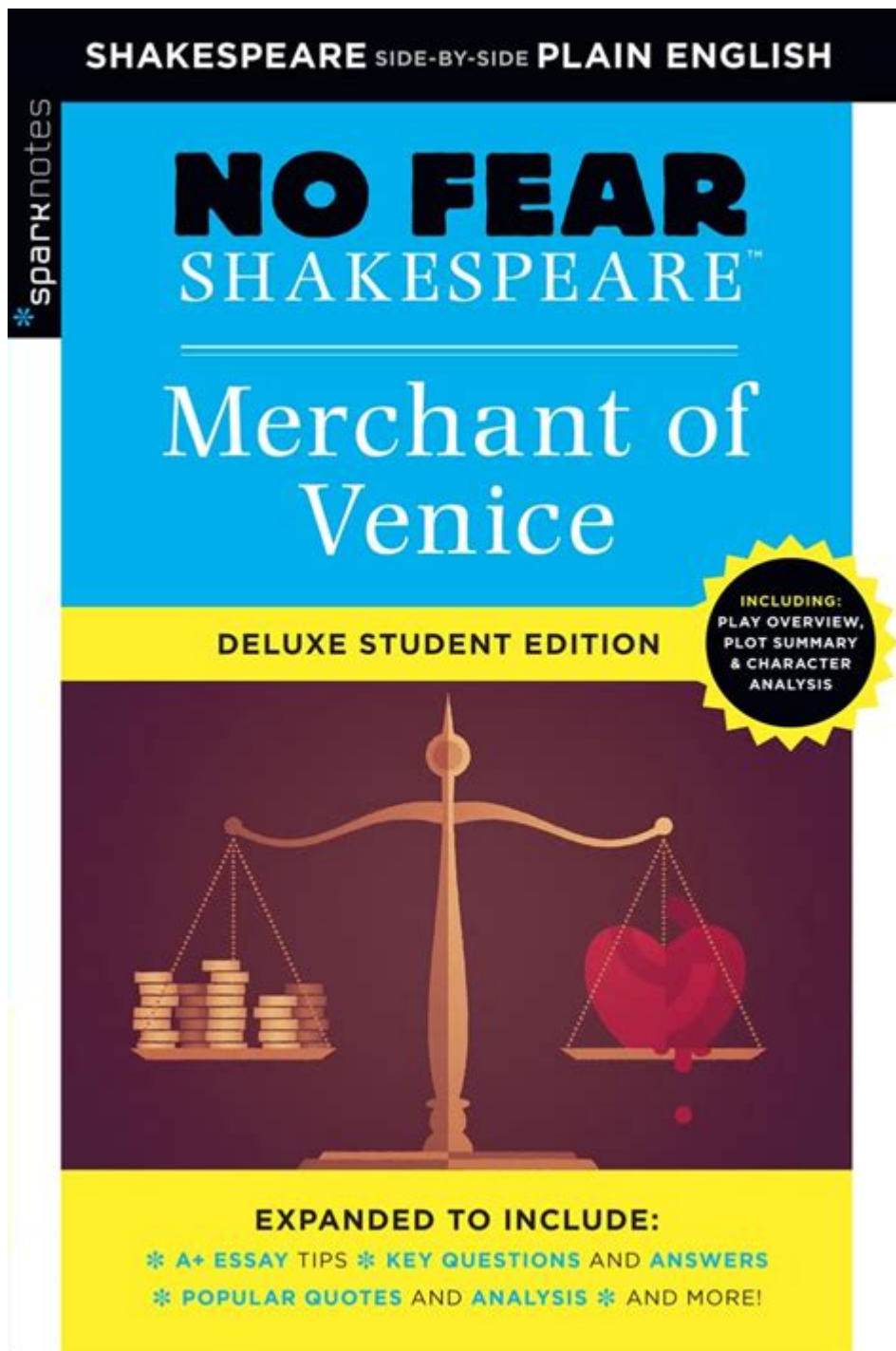


Sparknotes Merchant Of Venice



SparkNotes Merchant of Venice: A Comprehensive Guide

Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* is a complex play brimming with themes of justice, mercy,

love, and prejudice. Navigating its intricacies can be challenging, even for seasoned Shakespeare enthusiasts. This comprehensive guide, acting as your personalized SparkNotes Merchant of Venice, provides a detailed summary, character analysis, and exploration of key themes, ensuring you grasp the play's essence and nuances. Whether you're tackling it for a school assignment or simply seeking a deeper understanding, this guide will be your invaluable companion.

A Quick Summary: The Heart of the Matter

The Merchant of Venice centers around the wealthy Venetian merchant Antonio, who enters into a bond with the Jewish moneylender Shylock. Antonio's bond, a pound of flesh, serves as collateral for a loan he secures for his friend Bassanio, who seeks to woo the wealthy Portia. Bassanio's success in winning Portia's hand, through a clever choice of caskets, is interwoven with the unfolding crisis surrounding Antonio's bond. Antonio defaults on the loan, leading to a dramatic courtroom scene where Portia, disguised as a lawyer, cleverly outwits Shylock and saves Antonio's life. The play concludes with unresolved tensions, leaving the audience to contemplate the complexities of justice, mercy, and antisemitism.

The Key Players: Character Analysis

Understanding the characters is paramount to understanding the play. Let's delve into the key players:

Antonio: The Generous Merchant

Antonio, a seemingly generous and seemingly wealthy merchant, is presented as a complex character. His melancholy and willingness to risk his life for a friend highlight his loyalty but also hint at underlying vulnerabilities. His relationship with Shylock is the central conflict of the play, fuelled by prejudice and misunderstanding.

Shylock: The Moneylender

Shylock is arguably the most complex and controversial character. He is portrayed as a victim of antisemitism, constantly facing discrimination and prejudice. His demand for a pound of flesh is often viewed as revenge for the injustices he has suffered, but his actions also contribute to the play's exploration of the dangers of hatred and vengeance.

Bassanio: The Suitor

Bassanio, Antonio's friend, is driven by ambition and love. His pursuit of Portia highlights the social dynamics and materialism of the time. His choice of the lead casket ultimately leads to his marriage but also inadvertently sets the stage for the central conflict.

Portia: The Intelligent Heiress

Portia is a strong female character, trapped by her father's will but clever enough to manipulate the legal system to save Antonio. Her disguise and legal acumen demonstrate her intelligence and agency in a patriarchal society. However, her role also raises questions about the limitations placed on women, even those of high social standing.

Exploring the Themes: Beyond the Plot

The Merchant of Venice tackles several intricate themes, often simultaneously and sometimes contradictorily:

Justice vs. Mercy: A Central Conflict

The play's central conflict revolves around the tension between justice and mercy. Shylock demands justice according to the letter of the law, while Portia ultimately champions mercy, highlighting the limitations of a purely legalistic approach. This theme prompts reflection on the importance of compassion and understanding in the pursuit of justice.

Prejudice and Antisemitism: A Stark Reality

The play's portrayal of Shylock and the pervasive antisemitism within Venetian society remains a source of considerable debate. While Shylock's character is complex, the play undeniably reflects the historical reality of anti-Jewish sentiment. This makes it a crucial text for understanding the consequences of prejudice and discrimination.

Love and Courtship: Societal Expectations

The romantic subplot involving Bassanio and Portia explores societal expectations surrounding love and marriage. Portia's agency is limited by her father's will, highlighting the constraints placed on women in patriarchal societies. The caskets represent the challenges and choices involved in finding true love.

Appearance vs. Reality: Deception and Disguise

The play cleverly employs disguises and deceptive appearances. Portia's disguise as a lawyer highlights the power dynamics and the limitations of appearances. This element adds another layer of complexity to the play's central themes, forcing the audience to question what lies beneath the surface.

Conclusion: Unpacking the Legacy

The Merchant of Venice remains a compelling and challenging play, prompting ongoing debate and interpretation. Its enduring power lies in its exploration of timeless themes, forcing audiences to confront complex moral and social issues. By understanding its characters, plot, and themes, we gain a deeper appreciation of Shakespeare's genius and the enduring relevance of his work. This SparkNotes Merchant of Venice guide has aimed to provide a solid foundation for your further exploration of this fascinating and multifaceted play.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the central conflict of The Merchant of Venice? The central conflict revolves around Antonio's bond with Shylock and the ensuing legal battle over the pound of flesh. This conflict highlights the themes of justice, mercy, and prejudice.
2. Is Shylock a villain or a victim? Shylock is a complex character who can be seen as both a villain and a victim. He is a victim of antisemitism, but his actions also contribute to the conflict. This ambiguity makes him one of the most fascinating characters in Shakespearean drama.
3. What is the significance of the casket scene? The casket scene is crucial as it determines Bassanio's success in winning Portia's hand. It also underscores the themes of choice, appearance versus reality, and the importance of inner worth over external appearances.
4. What is the role of Portia in the play? Portia is a strong female character who cleverly uses her wit and intelligence to outwit Shylock and save Antonio. Her disguise and legal expertise demonstrate her agency within a patriarchal society.
5. Why is The Merchant of Venice still relevant today? The Merchant of Venice remains relevant due to its exploration of timeless themes like prejudice, justice, mercy, and the complexities of human relationships. Its exploration of antisemitism continues to resonate in a world still grappling with issues of discrimination and intolerance.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Merchant of Venice William Shakespeare, 1917

sparknotes merchant of venice: King Lear Jeffrey Kahan, 2008-04-18 Is King Lear an autonomous text, or a rewrite of the earlier and anonymous play King Leir? Should we refer to Shakespeare's original quarto when discussing the play, the revised folio text, or the popular composite version, stitched together by Alexander Pope in 1725? What of its stage variations? When turning from page to stage, the critical view on King Lear is skewed by the fact that for almost half of the four hundred years the play has been performed, audiences preferred Naham Tate's optimistic adaptation, in which Lear and Cordelia live happily ever after. When discussing King Lear, the question of what comprises 'the play' is both complex and fragmentary. These issues of identity and authenticity across time and across mediums are outlined, debated, and considered critically by the contributors to this volume. Using a variety of approaches, from postcolonialism and New Historicism to psychoanalysis and gender studies, the leading international contributors to King Lear: New Critical Essays offer major new interpretations on the conception and writing, editing, and cultural productions of King Lear. This book is an up-to-date and comprehensive anthology of textual scholarship, performance research, and critical writing on one of Shakespeare's most important and perplexing tragedies. Contributors Include: R.A. Foakes, Richard Knowles, Tom Clayton, Cynthia Clegg, Edward L. Rocklin, Christy Desmet, Paul Cantor, Robert V. Young, Stanley Stewart and Jean R. Brink

sparknotes merchant of venice: Volpone, Or, The Fox Ben Jonson, 2024-09-19 Volpone, Or, The Fox is Ben Jonson's great parable of greed, self-interest and inheritance. Using animal fable to satirize the wealthy and the greedy, it remains one of his most distinctive and compelling dramatic works. Jonson wrote the play for performance in 1606, and orchestrated its publication the following year. In it, the wealthy Venetian Volpone pretends to be on his deathbed, encouraging Voltore, Corbaccio and Corvino-the vulture, raven and crow-to compete for his fortune. With unflinching harshness and biting humour, Jonson portrays a society damningly hollowed out by over-monetization. This edition has been prepared by leading textual expert, John Jowett. With incisive scholarship, he explores the play's craftsmanship and examines how theatre practitioners and critics engage with it. Detailed notes explicate an authoritative text and breathe new life into it for readers today. Arden Early Modern Drama editions offer the best in contemporary scholarship, providing a wealth of helpful and incisive commentary to guide the reader through a deeper understanding and appreciation of the play. This edition provides: A clear and authoritative text Detailed on-page commentary notes A comprehensive, illustrated introduction to the play's historical, cultural and performance contexts A bibliography of references and further reading

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Color Purple Alice Walker, 2011-09-20 The Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning novel is now a new, boldly reimagined film from producers Oprah Winfrey and Steven Spielberg, starring Taraji P. Henson, Danielle Brooks, and Fantasia Barrino. A PBS Great American Read Top 100 Pick Celie has grown up poor in rural Georgia, despised by the society around her and abused by her own family. She strives to protect her sister, Nettie, from a similar fate, and while Nettie escapes to a new life as a missionary in Africa, Celie is left behind without her best friend and confidante, married off to an older suitor, and sentenced to a life alone with a harsh and brutal husband. In an attempt to transcend a life that often seems too much to bear, Celie begins writing letters directly to God. The letters, spanning 20 years, record a journey of self-discovery and empowerment guided by the light of a few strong women. She meets Shug Avery, her husband's mistress and a jazz singer with a zest for life, and her stepson's wife, Sofia, who challenges her to fight for independence. And though the many letters from Celie's sister are hidden by her husband, Nettie's unwavering support will prove to be the most breathtaking of all. The Color Purple has sold more than five million copies, inspired an Academy Award-nominated film starring Oprah Winfrey and directed by Steven Spielberg, and been adapted into a Tony-winning Broadway musical. Lauded as a literary masterpiece, this is the groundbreaking novel that placed Walker "in the company of Faulkner" (The Nation), and remains a wrenching—yet intensely uplifting—experience for new generations of readers. This ebook features a new

introduction written by the author on the 25th anniversary of publication, and an illustrated biography of Alice Walker including rare photos from the author's personal collection. The Color Purple is the 1st book in the Color Purple Collection, which also includes The Temple of My Familiar and Possessing the Secret of Joy.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Merry Devil William Shakespeare, 2020-09-28 Your silence and attention, worthy friends, That your free spirits may with more pleasing sense Relish the life of this our active scene: To which intent, to calm this murmuring breath, We ring this round with our invoking spells; If that your listning ears be yet prepar'd To entertain the subject of our play, Lend us your patience. Tis Peter Fabel, a renowned Scholler, Whose fame hath still been hitherto forgot By all the writers of this latter age. In Middle-sex his birth and his abode, Not full seven mile from this great famous City, That, for his fame in sleights and magicke won, Was calde the merry Friend of Emonton. If any here make doubt of such a name, In Edmonton yet fresh unto this day, Fixt in the wall of that old antient Church, His monument remayneth to be seen; His memory yet in the mouths of men, That whilst he lived he could deceive the Devill. Imagine now that whilst he is retirde From Cambridge back unto his native home, Suppose the silent, sable visagde night Casts her black curtain over all the World; And whilst he sleeps within his silent bed, Toiled with the studies of the passed day, The very time and hour wherein that spirit That many years attended his command, And often times twixt Cambridge and that town Had in a minute borne him through the air, By composition twixt the fiend and him, Comes now to claim the Scholler for his due.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Jew of Malta Christopher Marlowe, 2011-12-02 First performed by Shakespeare's rivals in the 1590s, Christopher Marlowe's The Jew of Malta was a trend-setting, innovative play whose black comedy and final tragic irony illuminate the darker regions of the Elizabethan cultural imagination. Although Jews were banished from England in 1291, the Jew in the form of Barabas, the play's protagonist, returns on the stage to embody and to challenge the dramatic and cultural anti-Semitic stereotypes out of which he is constructed. The result is a theatrically sophisticated but deeply unsettling play whose rich cultural significance extends beyond the early modern period to the present day. The introduction and historical documents in this edition provide a rich context for the world of the play's composition and production, including materials on Jewishness and anti-Semitism, the political struggles over Malta, and Christopher Marlowe's personal and political reputation.

sparknotes merchant of venice: Pigs in Heaven Barbara Kingsolver, 2009-03-17 Picking up where her modern classic The Bean Trees left off, Barbara Kingsolver's bestselling Pigs in Heaven continues the tale of Turtle and Taylor Greer, a Native American girl and her adoptive mother who have settled in Tucson, Arizona, as they both try to overcome their difficult pasts. Taking place three years after The Bean Trees, Taylor is now dating a musician named Jax and has officially adopted Turtle. But when a lawyer for the Cherokee Nation begins to investigate the adoption—their new life together begins to crumble. Depicting the clash between fierce family love and tribal law, poverty and means, abandonment and belonging, Pigs in Heaven is a morally wrenching, gently humorous work of fiction that speaks equally to the head and the heart. This edition includes a P.S. section with additional insights from Barbara Kingsolver, background material, suggestions for further reading, and more.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Wednesday Wars Gary D. Schmidt, 2007 In this Newbery Honor-winning novel, Gary D. Schmidt tells the witty and compelling story of a teenage boy who feels that fate has it in for him, during the school year 1968-68. Seventh grader Holling Hoodhood isn't happy. He is sure his new teacher, Mrs. Baker, hates his guts. Holling's domineering father is obsessed with his business image and disregards his family. Throughout the school year, Holling strives to get a handle on the Shakespeare plays Mrs. Baker assigns him to read on his own time, and to figure out the enigmatic Mrs. Baker. As the Vietnam War turns lives upside down, Holling comes to admire and respect both Shakespeare and Mrs. Baker, who have more to offer him than he imagined. And when his family is on the verge of coming apart, he also discovers his loyalty to his sister, and his ability to stand up to his father when it matters most.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Catcher in the Rye J. D. Salinger, 2024-06-28 The Catcher in the Rye, written by J.D. Salinger and published in 1951, is a classic American novel that explores the themes of adolescence, alienation, and identity through the eyes of its protagonist, Holden Caulfield. The novel is set in the 1950s and follows Holden, a 16-year-old who has just been expelled from his prep school, Pencey Prep. Disillusioned with the world around him, Holden decides to leave Pencey early and spend a few days alone in New York City before returning home. Over the course of these days, Holden interacts with various people, including old friends, a former teacher, and strangers, all the while grappling with his feelings of loneliness and dissatisfaction. Holden is deeply troubled by the 'phoniness' of the adult world and is haunted by the death of his younger brother, Allie, which has left a lasting impact on him. He fantasizes about being 'the catcher in the rye,' a guardian who saves children from losing their innocence by catching them before they fall off a cliff into adulthood. The novel ends with Holden in a mental institution, where he is being treated for a nervous breakdown. He expresses some hope for the future, indicating a possible path to recovery..

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sparknotes merchant of venice: Twelfth-night William Shakespeare, 1892

sparknotes merchant of venice: Hamnet Maggie O'Farrell, 2023-10-24 'She's like no one I've ever met... She's like fire and water all at once.' Warwickshire, 1582. Agnes Hathaway, a natural healer, meets the Latin tutor, William Shakespeare. Drawn together by powerful but hidden impulses, they create a life together and make a family. As William moves to London to discover his place in the world of theatre, Agnes stays at home to raise their three children but she is the constant presence and purpose of his life. When the plague steals 11-year-old Hamnet from his loving parents, they must each confront their loss alone. And yet, out of the greatest suffering, something of extraordinary wonder is born. This new play based on Maggie O'Farrell's best-selling novel and adapted by award-winning playwright Lolita Chakrabarti (Life of Pi, Red Velvet, Hymn), pulls back a curtain on the imagined family life of the greatest writer in the English language. Hamnet is a love letter to passion, birth, grief and the magic of nature. This updated and revised edition was published to coincide with the West End transfer of the original RSC production in October 2023.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Merry Wives of Windsor William Shakespeare, 1913

sparknotes merchant of venice: Coriolanus Illustrated William Shakespeare, 2021-05-31 Coriolanus is a tragedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written between 1605 and 1608. The play is based on the life of the legendary Roman leader Caius Marcius Coriolanus. The tragedy is one of the last two tragedies written by Shakespeare, along with Antony and Cleopatra. Coriolanus is the name given to a Roman general after his military success against various uprisings challenging the government of Rome. Following this success, Coriolanus becomes active in politics and seeks political leadership. His temperament is unsuited for popular leadership and he is quickly deposed, whereupon he aligns himself to set matters straight according to his own will. The alliances he forges along the way result in his ultimate downfall.

sparknotes merchant of venice: As You Like it William Shakespeare, 1810

sparknotes merchant of venice: Titus Andronicus William Shakespeare, 1892

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sparknotes merchant of venice: Richard III William Shakespeare, 1891

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Merchant of Venice (Collins Classics) William Shakespeare, 2013-09-12 HarperCollins is proud to present its incredible range of best-loved, essential classics.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue V. E. Schwab, 2020-10-06 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER USA TODAY BESTSELLER NATIONAL INDIE BESTSELLER THE WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER Recommended by Entertainment Weekly, Real Simple, NPR,

Slate, and Oprah Magazine #1 Library Reads Pick—October 2020 #1 Indie Next Pick—October 2020 BOOK OF THE YEAR (2020) FINALIST—Book of The Month Club A “Best Of” Book From: Oprah Mag * CNN * Amazon * Amazon Editors * NPR * Goodreads * Bustle * PopSugar * BuzzFeed * Barnes & Noble * Kirkus Reviews * Lambda Literary * Nerdette * The Nerd Daily * Polygon * Library Reads * io9 * Smart Bitches Trashy Books * LiteraryHub * Medium * BookBub * The Mary Sue * Chicago Tribune * NY Daily News * SyFy Wire * Powells.com * Bookish * Book Riot * Library Reads Voter Favorite * In the vein of *The Time Traveler’s Wife* and *Life After Life*, *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* is New York Times bestselling author V. E. Schwab’s genre-defying tour de force. A Life No One Will Remember. A Story You Will Never Forget. France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever—and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name. Also by V. E. Schwab *Shades of Magic* *A Darker Shade of Magic* *A Gathering of Shadows* *A Conjuring of Light* *Villains Vicious Vengeful* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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sparknotes merchant of venice: Henry IV William Shakespeare, 1901

sparknotes merchant of venice: All But My Life Gerda Weissmann Klein, 1995-03-31 *All But My Life* is the unforgettable story of Gerda Weissmann Klein's six-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty. From her comfortable home in Bielitz (present-day Bielsko) in Poland to her miraculous survival and her liberation by American troops—including the man who was to become her husband—in Volary, Czechoslovakia, in 1945, Gerda takes the reader on a terrifying journey. Gerda's serene and idyllic childhood is shattered when Nazis march into Poland on September 3, 1939. Although the Weissmanns were permitted to live for a while in the basement of their home, they were eventually separated and sent to German labor camps. Over the next few years Gerda experienced the slow, inexorable stripping away of all but her life. By the end of the war she had lost her parents, brother, home, possessions, and community; even the dear friends she made in the labor camps, with whom she had shared so many hardships, were dead. Despite her horrifying experiences, Klein conveys great strength of spirit and faith in humanity. In the darkness of the camps, Gerda and her young friends manage to create a community of friendship and love. Although stripped of the essence of life, they were able to survive the barbarity of their captors. Gerda's beautifully written story gives an invaluable message to everyone. It introduces them to last century's terrible history of devastation and prejudice, yet offers them hope that the effects of hatred can be overcome.

sparknotes merchant of venice: Life Of Galileo Bertolt Brecht, 2015-02-13 This Student Edition of Brecht's classic dramatisation of the conflict between free enquiry and official ideology features an extensive introduction and commentary that includes a plot summary, discussion of the context, themes, characters, style and language as well as questions for further study and notes on words and phrases in the text. It is the perfect edition for students of theatre and literature Along with *Mother Courage*, the character of Galileo is one of Brecht's greatest creations, immensely live, human and complex. Unable to resist his appetite for scientific investigation, Galileo's heretical discoveries about the solar system bring him to the attention of the Inquisition. He is scared into publicly abjuring his theories but, despite his self-contempt, goes on working in private, eventually helping to smuggle his writings out of the country. As an examination of the problems that face not

only the scientist but also the whole spirit of free inquiry when brought into conflict with the requirements of government or official ideology, *Life of Galileo* has few equals. Written in exile in 1937-9 and first performed in Zurich in 1943, *Galileo* was first staged in English in 1947 by Joseph Losey in a version jointly prepared by Brecht and Charles Laughton, who played the title role. Printed here is the complete translation by John Willett.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time Will Durant, 2002-11-07 A wise and witty compendium of the greatest thoughts, greatest minds, and greatest books of all time—listed in accessible and succinct form—by one of the world's greatest scholars. From the “Hundred Best Books” to the “Ten Greatest Thinkers” to the “Ten Greatest Poets,” here is a concise collection of the world’s most significant knowledge. For the better part of a century, Will Durant dwelled upon—and wrote about—the most significant eras, individuals, and achievements of human history. His selections have finally been brought together in a single, compact volume. Durant eloquently defends his choices of the greatest minds and ideas, but he also stimulates readers into forming their own opinions, encouraging them to shed their surroundings and biases and enter “The Country of the Mind,” a timeless realm where the heroes of our species dwell. From a thinker who always chose to exalt the positive in the human species, *The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time* stays true to Durant's optimism. This is a book containing the absolute best of our heritage, passed on for the benefit of future generations. Filled with Durant's renowned wit, knowledge, and unique ability to explain events and ideas in simple and exciting terms, this is a pocket-size liberal arts and humanist curriculum in one volume.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Serpent of Venice Christopher Moore, 2014-04-22 Venice, a long time ago. Three prominent Venetians await their most loathsome and foul dinner guest, the erstwhile envoy from the Queen of Britain: the rascal-Fool Pocket. This trio of cunning plotters—the merchant, Antonio; the senator, Montessor Brabantio; and the naval officer, Iago—have lured Pocket to a dark dungeon, promising an evening of sprits and debauchery with a rare Amontillado sherry and Brabantio's beautiful daughter, Portia. But their invitation is, of course, bogus. The wine is drugged. The girl isn't even in the city limits. Desperate to rid themselves once and for all of the man who has consistently foiled their grand quest for power and wealth, they have lured him to his death. (How can such a small man, be such a huge obstacle?). But this Fool is no fool . . . and he's got more than a few tricks (and hand gestures) up his sleeve. Greed, revenge, deception, lust, and a giant (but lovable) sea monster combine to create another hilarious and bawdy tale from modern comic genius, Christopher Moore.

sparknotes merchant of venice: Never Let Me Go Sachin Garg, 2012

sparknotes merchant of venice: *The Miniaturist* Jessie Burton, 2015 Korean edition of *The Miniaturist: A Novel* by Jessie Burton. The book won the 2014 Waterstones Book of the Year award and the author Jessie Burton won the 'new writer of the year' award at the 2014 National Book Awards. From the Back Cover; On a brisk autumn day in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella Oortman arrives in Amsterdam to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt. But her splendid new home is not welcoming... In Korean. Annotation copyright Tsai Fong Books, Inc. Distributed by Tsai Fong Books, Inc.

sparknotes merchant of venice: The Winter's Tale Annotated William Shakespeare, 2021-05-03 *The Winter's Tale* is a play by William Shakespeare originally published in the First Folio of 1623. Although it was grouped among the comedies, many modern editors have relabelled the play as one of Shakespeare's late romances. Some critics consider it to be one of Shakespeare's problem plays because the first three acts are filled with intense psychological drama, while the last two acts are comedic and supply a happy ending

sparknotes merchant of venice: All's Well That Ends Well Annotated William Shakespeare, 2020-10-17 Set in France and Italy, *All's Well That Ends Well* is a story of one-sided romance, based on a tale from Boccaccio's *The Decameron*. Helen, orphaned daughter of a doctor, is under the protection of the widowed Countess of Rossillion. In love with Bertram, the countess' son, Helen follows him to court, where she cures the sick French king of an apparently fatal illness. The

king rewards Helen by offering her the husband of her choice. She names Bertram; he resists. When forced by the king to marry her, he refuses to sleep with her and, accompanied by the braggart Parolles, leaves for the Italian wars. He says that he will only accept Helen if she obtains a ring from his finger and becomes pregnant with his child. She goes to Italy disguised as a pilgrim and suggests a 'bed trick' whereby she will take the place of Diana, a widow's daughter whom Bertram is trying to seduce. A 'kidnapping trick' humiliates the boastful Parolles, whilst the bed trick enables Helen to fulfil Bertram's conditions, leaving him no option but to marry her, to his mother's delight.

sparknotes merchant of venice: *Macbeth* , 2008

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sparknotes merchant of venice: Manhattan Tropics Guillermo Cotto-Thorner, Cristina Pérez Jiménez, 2019 Walking underground for the first time in his life, Juan Marcos Villalobos, a freshly arrived migrant to New York City, offers his seat to a woman standing on the subway. Though his English isn't up to her rude reply, he quickly realizes that good manners in Nueva York are quite different than in Puerto Rico! Juan Marcos is eager to continue his studies in the United States and rents a room from family friends living in El Barrio, or Spanish Harlem. Soon, he has a job wrapping packages at a department store that pays as much as he made teaching high school at home. As he interacts with the Puerto Rican community in New York, he witnesses the problems his compatriots encounter, including discrimination, inadequate housing, jobs and wages. Despite these problems, friendships and romances bloom and rivalries surface, leading to betrayal and even attempted murder! Originally published in 1951 as *Tropico en Manhattan*, it was the first novel to focus on the postwar influx of Puerto Ricans to New York. Cotto-Thorner's use of code-switching, or Spanglish, reflects the characters' bicultural reality and makes the novel a forerunner of Nuyorican writing and contemporary Latino literature. This new bilingual edition contains a first-ever English translation by J. Bret Maney that artfully captures the style and spirit of the original Spanish. The novel's exploration of class, race and gender—while demonstrating the community's resilience and cultural pride—ensures its relevance today.

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