

Standard 9 English Literature Worksheet 2

Date: 5/24/20

Note: The given extracts are to be solved in the ‘Merchant of Venice’ workbook. Students who do not have the workbook are expected to solve these extracts in the literature notebook.

Q1: Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

Antonio

In sooth, I know not why I am so sad.

It wearies me; you say it wearies you;

But how I caught it, found or came by it,

What stuff tis’ made of, whereof it is born,

I am to learn;

And such a want-wit sadness makes of me,

That I have much ado to know myself.

(i) Where are Antonio and his friends? What does Antonio say about his sadness?

(ii) Give the meaning of:

(a) whereof it is born:

(b) a want-wit sadness

(c) That I have much ado to know myself:

(iii) What reason does Salarino give as probable cause of Antonio’s melancholy?

(iv) State in your own words the scene on the ocean as described by Salarino, when Antonio’s ships were sailing.

(v) Why do you think that Antonio is presented as a melancholic character? What could be the cause for his melancholy?

2)

Salanio

Believe me sir, had I venture forth,

The better part of my affections would

Be with my hopes abroad, I should be still

Plucking the grass, to know where sits the wind;

Peering in maps for ports, and piers, and roads;

And every other object that might make me fear

Misfortune to my ventures, out of doubt

Would make me sad.

(i) What would Salanio's attention be if he had business ventures abroad? Why would he be 'Plucking the grass' What else would he be doing in that context?

(ii) What would make Salanio fear some danger to his ventures? Give two examples from the opening scene to show how some objects remind Salarino of the danger to the ships.

(iii) Give meaning of: Plucking the grass to know where sits the wind.

(iv) In spite of the danger to his ships, why is Antonio not worried about his financial security?

(v) What light does the opening scene throw on the danger that the sea could pose to ships? How does the scene show that Antony is very confident about his business venture?