

# ENGLISH: Year 8 Summer Half Term 2 – The Merchant of Venice

## What are we learning about?

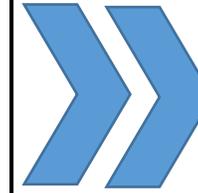
In this topic, we will be learning about Shakespeare's play 'The Merchant of Venice'. We will be learning about the character Portia and a lottery arranged by her father to find her a husband.

This includes learning about how Shakespeare presents relationships between fathers and daughters.



## Why are we learning about it?

In this unit, you will begin to explore the human condition and consider to what extent characters of Literature are either wholly good or bad. We want you to critically engage with the text and form your own opinions, supporting your ideas with quotations.



## What new KNOWLEDGE will I gain?

New knowledge will include the comedy genre and how it has changed over time.

You will also learn about patriarchy and prejudices in the Elizabethan era.



## How does this build on the SKILLS I already have?

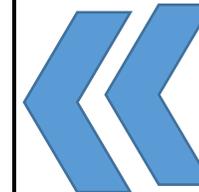
This unit builds on your skills of language analysis.

It also builds on your skills of identifying and explaining key ideas, providing evidence to support your ideas. You will also develop your letter writing skills.



## What new SKILLS will I develop?

As we look at a play written from an earlier time period, you will explore new ways in which writers present their ideas and develop a personal response to complex characters. This will include using new, more complex terminology to improve your ability to present, support and explain these ideas effectively.



## How does this build on the KNOWLEDGE I already have?

This builds on your knowledge of Shakespeare's life and times from the Introduction to Shakespeare unit you studied in Year 7.

It also builds on your knowledge of your knowledge of the conventions of Shakespeare's comedy and tragedy plays.