Antonio – the title character; a good friend of Bassanio, perhaps in love with him

Bassanio – Antonio’s friend; needs a loan to woo Portia

Gratiano – Bassanio’s friend and frequent companion

Lorenzo – Bassanio’s younger friend; in love with Jessica, Shylock’s daughter

Solanio and Salarino – Bassanio’s friends; almost always together, almost impossible to tell apart

Lancelet Gobbo – Shylock’s servant; is later hired as Bassanio’s servant

Jessica – Shylock’s daughter; in love with Lorenzo

Duke of Venice – highest official in Venice; acts as judge in civil disputes (as the Duke of Venice does in Othello and Theseus does in A Midsummer Night’s Dream)

Shylock – a Jewish moneylender

Tubal – Shylock’s friend; another moneylender

Bassanio’s Friends

Salario – a messenger from Venice to Belmont; not to be confused with Solanio or Salarino

Duke of Venice

Venice

Venice

Belmont (estate in the country)

Portia – a rich heiress; according to her father’s will, she has to marry whoever chooses the correct of three caskets or she forfeits her father’s fortune

Nerissa – Portia’s servant and confidante

Prince of Morocco and Prince of Arragon – each is attempting to woo Portia; each knows that, if he chooses the wrong casket, he can’t marry Portia and must remain celibate for the rest of his life

Stephano and Balthazar – Portia’s servants

Portia

Prince of Morocco

Prince of Arragon

Character Map -- *The Merchant of Venice*