

Shakespeare extracts

Task 1

Complete each famous line from a Shakespeare play with the right word:

1. All the world's a _____ and all the men and women merely players (players- actors)
 - a. Film
 - b. Stage
 - c. Cinema
 - d. TV

2. To be or not to be, that is the _____
 - a. Problem
 - b. Question
 - c. Solution
 - d. Answer

3. All that glitters is not _____ (glitters – shines)
 - a. Silver
 - b. Metal
 - c. Gold
 - d. Money

4. Neither a _____ nor a lender be (nor – or)
 - a. Giver
 - b. Finder
 - c. Borrower
 - d. Loser

5. Men of _____ words are the best men
 - a. Many
 - b. Few
 - c. No
 - d. Long

6. But love is _____, and lovers cannot see.
 - a. Deaf
 - b. Dumb
 - c. Blind
 - d. Stupid

Task 2

Now match the quotations to a situation:

1. All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players	A. He wants me to lend him some money but it's a lot and I'm not happy about it
2. To be or not to be, that is the question	B. I don't why I even get out of bed in the morning – life is horrible sometimes
3. All that glisters is not gold	C. I like him because he only talks when he has something to say
4. Neither a borrower nor a lender be	D. He knows that she's a rude, selfish person but he still wants to marry her!
5. Men of few words are the best men	E. I bought this car because it looked great, but there's lots of problems with the motor. I wish I'd been more careful.
6. Love is blind, and lovers cannot see	F. He never takes anything seriously – it's all a game to him

Task 3

These quotations are from four of William Shakespeare's plays.

Can you match the quotations to these summaries of the plays?

A. The Merchant of Venice

This play is about the idea that people usually get what they deserve in the end, good or bad. Antonio, a business man, borrows money from Shylock, a money lender. If he doesn't pay back the money in time, Shylock will cut off a piece of his body. Antonio loses all his business and must pay this terrible price....but is saved by love.

B. Hamlet

This play is about revenge and also about how difficult it is to take action sometimes, even when it is important. Hamlet's father is murdered by another man, who then marries Hamlet's mother. Everybody wants to see Hamlet dead. Hamlet must take revenge, but will he be able to?

C. As you Like It

This play is a comedy about romantic love. There is a battle between two evil brothers and two good brothers. People hide in a beautiful forest. They fall in love, women disguise themselves as men, and there are many jokes, songs and games.

D. Henry V

This is a history play about a famous English King, and a famous battle, Agincourt. We watch the preparations for the battle, the fighting and the results. There are questions in this play: Why do men fight? What are wars? Are they glorious? Or terrible?

Answers:**Task 1:**

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. C

Task 2:

1. F
2. B
3. E
4. A
5. C
6. D

Task 3:

Hamlet – To be or not to be, that is the question *and* Neither a borrower nor a lender be

The Merchant of Venice – all that glitters is not gold

As you Like It – But love is blind, and lovers cannot see *and* All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players

Henry V – Men of few words are the best men