

**The accused**

Your name is Shylock and you are accused of attempted murder.

You are a money lender. A businessman borrowed a lot of money from you. You didn't want to lend him the money, because he has always been very cruel to you, but finally, you agreed. You told the man that if he couldn't pay you back you would cut half a kilo of flesh from the body of his best friend.

The man couldn't pay you back and so you wanted to keep your bargain. Is this a crime?

You do not think that you are guilty of any crime. The man who you tried to kill has been very unkind to you. He and his friend have made your life very unhappy. They have laughed at you and called you names because of your religion (you are a Jew).

Now you are in court. People want to see you in prison, or worse, hanged. Tell the jury your story. You want them to feel sorry for you and to see how badly you have been treated.

**The prosecution**

The accused, Shylock, is guilty of attempted murder because he wanted to cut half a kilo of flesh from a man's body. The only reason he did this was for money – what a monster!

You do not think the streets of Venice will be safe until this evil man is punished.

The man has no friends in Venice. He lends money with very high interest. He has a daughter who doesn't love him because he is unkind. He is violent, mean and dangerous, and if he is not punished, you are sure he will kill in the future.

You want the jury to see how bad a man he is and you are going to do this by asking him questions. Be careful! He might not answer truthfully...

**The defence**

Your client, Shylock, is accused of attempted murder. He is a money lender, who tried to take half a kilo of flesh from the body of a man when he did not get his money paid back to him.

You know that he is guilty of attempted murder, but you think the jury should have some sympathy for him.

You know that Shylock is very lonely. He is a single dad, who has looked after his daughter very well since his wife died. He is also the victim of a lot of racist abuse from the people of Venice. They don't like him because he is a Jew.

You think that the people of Venice are guilty too. Shylock's crime has come from his loneliness and sadness. Tell the jury his story. You must try to make the jury feel sorry for him.

Ask Shylock and his daughter questions to show how good a man Shylock is. You want him to walk free!

**The witness**

You are Jessica. Your father's name is Shylock, and he is a money lender. Shylock has been accused of attempted murder. He tried to cut half a kilo of flesh from the body of a man whose friend could not pay him back.

You know that he is guilty of attempted murder. You love your father, but you have also fallen in love with a good friend of the man he tried to kill.

If your father is found guilty he will be punished. However, you will also be free to marry the man of your dreams. Be careful what you say and how you answer the questions: your life and future happiness depends on it.