



Topic: The Merchant of Venice, Act I, Scene i

Name: _____

Class: IX

Date: _____

The answer to the following is to be written out in your English register.

Salarino: *Not in love neither? Then let us say you are sad
Because you are not merry—and 'twere as easy
For you to laugh and leap and say you are merry
Because you are not sad. Now, by two-headed Janus,
Nature hath framed strange fellows in her time.
Some that will evermore peep through their eyes
And laugh like parrots at a bagpiper,
And other of such vinegar aspect
That they'll not show their teeth in way of smile
Though Nestor swear the jest be laughable.*

- a. Who had just said that Antonio was in love? What was Antonio's reaction to that remark?
- b. What explanation does Salarino give in the extract for Antonio's sadness?
- c. Describe in your own words the two types of strange fellows who have been framed by nature, according to Salarino.
- d. Who is Nestor? Why is he mentioned in the extract?
- e. Who comes at the end of Salarino's speech? Why does Salarino leave then?