Your turn! Playing Shakespeare....

**Task: Congratulations! You have just been hired to join an acting company which will be performing a scene from *The Merchant of Venice*.**

**In groups of 2-5, you are responsible for choosing, rehearsing and performing a scene or an excerpt of a scene, complete with costumes, props and blocking. It can be filmed or presented live.**

*Follow these steps:*

1. Choose your scene and give your acting company a name. Decide who is going to be the director. Divide the roles amongst the actors. Those who have the least amount of lines will be responsible for organizing props and costumes.

1. Start by reading the scene together, making note of stage directions, and any needed props and costumes.
2. Prepare Written Component Part 1:
   1. “Performance Information” :

* the scene your company will perform, and the role of each group member

1. Prepare Written Component Part 2:



a. “Context”:

* + gives a short summary of the scene,
  + why it is important to the plot,
  + what themes are developed
  + how characters are developed.

b. “Personal Evaluation”: Explain how you personally contributed to the task, what you did well, and what you could improve upon.

1. Refine your work through planning, blocking and **rehearsing**. If you decide to film your scene, it is VERY IMPORTANT to ensure that you will be able to play it in class. Consult with Miss Lazzarin about the technology available.
2. Let go! Have fun! Remember, this is supposed to be entertaining. If you are bored by your performance, your audience will be too!

SUGGESTED SCENES:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Act 1.1 (114-185): Guy talk  Act 1.2: Girl talk  Act 1.3 (93-178): Deal with Shylock  Act 2.2 (33-108): The clowns  Act 2.6: The elopement  Act 3.1 (11-68): To bait fish | Act 3.1 (69-121): Good news bad news  Act 3.2 (236-325): The letter  Act 4.1 (1-104): Shylock’s argument  Act 4.1 (253-361): The loophole  Act 5.1 (142-283): The rings |