

THE MERCHANT

There was a MERCHANT with forked beard
In motley gown¹, and high on horse he sat,
Upon his head a Flemish beaver² hat;
His boots were fastened neatly and elegantly.
He spoke out his opinions very solemnly,
Stressing the times when he had won, not lost.
He wanted the sea were guarded at any cost
Between Middleburgh and the town of Orwel.
He knew how to deal foreign currencies, buy and sell.
This worthy man kept all his wits well set³;
There was no person that knew he was in debt,
So well he managed all his trade affairs
With bargains and with borrowings and with shares.
Indeed, he was a worthy man withall,
But, to tell the truth, his name I can't recall.

After reading the characterization of the Merchant at least three times and recalling all the study of characterizations we carried out in class, write a **textual analysis discussing how the merchant's portrait comes to life.**

Make sure you include:

- An introduction with your expectations
- The elements the poet resorted to create the knight
- The language used (semantic fields, tone, figures of speech, rhyme, syntax, ...)
- The message the poet wants to convey

¹ motley gown= multicoloured cloth

² The fur of an animal

³ his wits well set= made intelligent use of his mental talents