

William Shakespeare's

Othello



1. What was Iago's complaint in Scene 1?
2. Who was Brabantio, and why did Iago and Roderigo hate him?
3. Why did Iago leave Roderigo at Brabantio's house?
4. What was Brabantio's reaction to Othello's marriage to Desdemona?
5. Why did the Duke send for Othello?
6. Brabantio complains to the Duke about Othello's marriage to Desdemona. After listening to both sides of the story, what was the Duke's reply?
7. What was Roderigo's complaint, and what was Iago's reply to it?

Act I – A Street in Venice, A Council's Chamber

Act II – The Seaport, The Quay, and The Castle

ACT III- The Castle – In front, in a room, and in the garden

ACT IV – Cyprus and The Castle

ACT V- Cyprus and Desdemona's Bed Chamber

Shakespeare, About Othello, Themes

Globe Theatre

Othello Character Chart, Conflicts, and Map

Interactive Layered Flip Book

With Answer Keys

| CRITERIA | Othello | Desdemona | Iago | Cassio | Roderigo | Emilia |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Protagonist | Tragic Hero | Victim | Antagonist | Supporting | Supporting | Supporting |
| Motivation | Love of Desdemona | Love of Othello | Jealousy | Survival | Love of Desdemona | Love of Othello |
| Action | Kills Desdemona | Is killed | Plots | Plots | Plots | Plots |
| Emotional attributes | Passionate, loving, jealous, proud | Kind, loving, loyal | Jealous, cunning, malicious | Jealous, cunning, malicious | Jealous, cunning, malicious | Jealous, cunning, malicious |
| Archetype | Tragic Hero | Victim | Antagonist | Supporting | Supporting | Supporting |

1. Why did Iago want Roderigo to anger Cassio?
2. What was the purpose of Iago's plan?
3. Why did Iago want Cassio to drink more wine?
4. What lie did Iago tell Montano about Cassio?
5. Why did Othello strip Cassio of his rank?
6. Why did Iago want Cassio to ask Desdemona?

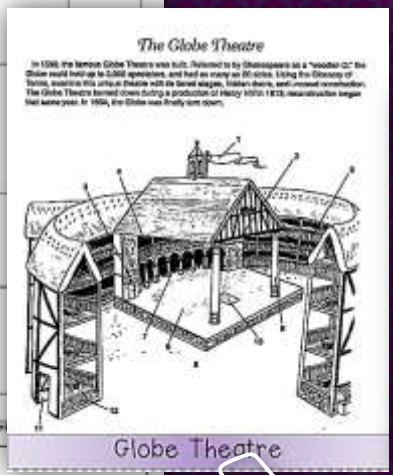
1. What was Iago's complaint in Scene 1?
2. Who was Brabantio, and why did Iago and Roderigo awaken him in the middle of the night?
3. Why did Iago leave Roderigo at Brabantio's house?
4. What was Brabantio's reaction to Othello's marriage to Desdemona?
5. Why did the Duke send for Othello?
6. Brabantio complains to the Duke about Othello's marriage to Desdemona. After listening to both sides of the story, what was the Duke's reply?
7. What was Roderigo's complaint, and what was Iago's reply to it?

1. After Iago lied and told Othello that Cassio confessed going to bed with Desdemona, what advice did he give the astonished Othello?
2. How did Iago trick Othello into thinking Cassio was gloating and bragging about his affair with Desdemona?
3. Why was Bianca angry with Cassio?
4. How did Bianca's storm with the handkerchief help Iago?
5. Why is Othello in bed?
6. What was Cassio's reaction to Othello's lie about his affair with Desdemona? How do Iago or Cassio react to Othello's behavior to Iago?
7. Why did Othello ask Desdemona and Cassio to sleep with Desdemona, and what was her reply?
8. In what does Desdemona turn to help after she is accused for a stranger's?
9. Why did Iago tell Roderigo to kill Cassio, and why did Roderigo agree to kill him?

Act I - A Street in Venice, A Council's Chamber

Act II - The Seaport, The Quay, and The Castle

| CRITERIA | Othello | Desdemona | Iago | Cassio | Roderigo | Emilia |
|---|----------|-----------|------|--------|----------|--------|
| Archetype | | | | | | |
| Motivation | | | | | | |
| Action | | | | | | |
| Emotions/Attributes | | | | | | |
| 'Arch' (beginning to end) | | | | | | |
| Conflict: List and explain the major conflicts in the play. | | | | | | |
| | External | | | | | |



3. What was Iago's reply when Othello demanded proof of his wife's disloyalty?
4. What did Othello decide and command at the end of Scene III?
5. What was Emilia's relationship with Iago? Desdemona?
6. Who had the handkerchief at the end of Act III? Why?

ACT III- The Castle - In front, in a room, and in the garden

(born 1564; died 1616) was an English poet and playwright, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's preeminent dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon". His surviving works, including some collaborations, consist of 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright.

Shakespeare was born and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, who bore him three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Between 1585 and 1592, he began a successful career in London as an actor, writer, and part owner of a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. He appears to have retired to Stratford around 1613, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life survive, and there has been considerable speculation about such matters as his physical appearance, sexuality, religious beliefs, and whether the works attributed to him were written by others.

Shakespeare produced most of his known work between 1589 and 1613. His early plays were mainly comedies and histories, genres he raised to the peak of sophistication and artistry by the end of the sixteenth century. He then wrote several tragedies until 1608, including Hamlet, King Lear, and Macbeth, considered among the finest works in the English language. Many of his plays were published in editions of varying accuracy and quality during his lifetime. In 1623, two of his former theatrical colleagues published the First Folio, a complete edition of his dramatic works that included all but two of the plays now recognized as Shakespeare's.

It's a tragedy...

In everyday life, the word "tragedy" is used very differently from the way it is used in a Shakespearean play. It often refers to an accident or disaster. We see examples in the news, such as the 9/11 events that are described as being tragedies.

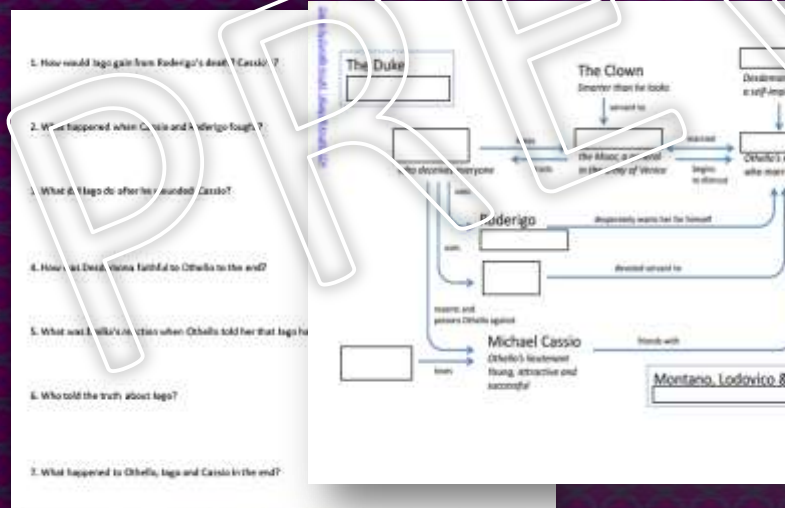
- I consider three events that you have read or heard about in the news that we been described as "tragedies".
- The work revolves around four central characters: Othello, a Moorish general in the Venetian army; his wife, Desdemona; his bookish, jealous, and bitter servant, Iago; and Othello's wife's maids.
- "Othello's wife's maids" - current themes of racism, love, jealousy, and betrayal. Othello is still a Moor - performed in professional and community theatre alike and has been the basis for numerous operatic, film, and literary adaptations.

Sometimes the term "tragedy" is used in a way of exaggerating an event or experience. Hence the 9/11 incident or any natural disaster is described as a "tragedy" that is not "life and death".

Example: The way she dressed was a tragedy.

Othello is a tragedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written in approximately 1603, and based on the Italian short story "Un Moro in Costato" by Cinthio, a disciple of Boccaccio, first published in 1565.

Othello Character Chart, Conflicts, and Map



Shakespeare, About Othello, Themes

Character for although he is called "Moor" is almost everyone in the play believes. Also applies to Desdemona, an Othello-believer that she is beautiful, naive, and innocent.

Race
 Race is an extremely important theme. It has a great amount of influence on how people regard Othello for those who prejudice against Black people mostly on looks cause the Othello. The race. Race also determines how Othello perceives himself as a single individual. Though he is nothing of the sort, Othello's race sets him apart, and makes him very self-conscious. It makes him work hard and look carefully after his reputation, so he is regarded as equal to the white people that surround him.
 Example:

Color vs. Class
 In Othello, Iago is an excellent orator and very shrewd. Othello has a dark skin, he is a Moorish man.

Self-identification
 Othello's lack of self-love and his darker aspects of Othello's life that he has these darker traits.
 Example:

Class vs. Self
 Though there is much gray on the spectrum of this theme, it does successfully come across.

CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE

CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE

ACT V-Cyprus and Desdemona's Bed Chamber

Study Guide Answer Key

- 8. To whom does Desdemona turn for help after Othello's accusation?
9. Who did Iago tell Rodrigo to kill Cassio? Why did Rodrigo consent to think about it?

ACT V

- 1. How would Iago get his revenge on Desdemona?
2. What happens when Cassio and Iago fight?
3. What if Iago dies after he poisoned Cassio?

Study Guide Answer Key

- 1. Who did Iago tell Rodrigo to kill Cassio? Why did Rodrigo consent to think about it?
2. What happens when Cassio and Iago fight?

Study Guide Answer Key

- 1. Who did Iago tell Rodrigo to kill Cassio?
2. What happens when Cassio and Iago fight?
3. What if Iago dies after he poisoned Cassio?

Themes Answer Key

For each theme, provide a quote from the play in which this theme is evident.
Appearance vs. Reality
Especially relevant to the issue of Iago's character for although he is called "honest" by all of everyone in the play...

Globe Theatre Answer Key

- 1. Flag—signified which type of play was being performed—black for tragedy, white for comedy, and red for history.
2. The "Heavens"—ceiling over the stage that protected the actors from too much sun or rain.

Character Chart Answer Key

Table with 7 columns (Criteria/Archetype, Othello, Desdemona, Iago, Cassio, Roderigo, Emilia) and 4 rows (Motivation, Action, Emotional Attributes, Archetype).

Themes Answer Key

For each theme, provide a quote from the play in which this theme is evident.
Appearance vs. Reality
Iago's character for although he is called "honest" by all of everyone in the play...