

Othello

Act 2

- ★ Summarise the main action of Act Two.
- ★ How is the theme of **conflict** explored at the beginning of the Act (29)? Quote (30) and explain how one conflict has ended and another begins. Why do you think Shakespeare chooses to do this?
- ★ What is Montano's opinion of Othello (30/31)? Quote and explain. Why is it important to include these opinions at this point?
- ★ How would you describe Cassio's attitude to Desdemona (32)? What kind of imagery does he use to describe her? Quote and explain.
- ★ On page 35, Desdemona is at once the same, and the opposite, as Iago. Quote and explain how this is with reference to the **theme** being explored.
- ★ Look closely at Iago's **aside** on 37. Quote and explain how effective is the image Iago creates on line 164/5 is. Explain the idea that has occurred to Iago at this point.
- ★ Othello enters full of joy and affection at meeting his wife safely (38). Quote and explain the lines that are loaded with **dramatic irony**. Quote and explain Iago's confirmation to the audience the irony of the Othello's statement.
- ★ Summarise Iago's reasons and persuasions for Roderigo to continue to pursue Desdemona. Explain how he characterises Othello, Cassio and Desdemona and if those correspond with the actions of the characters so far.
- ★ Look closely at Iago's soliloquy at the end of Scene 1. Quote and explain the parts **you find** most revealing and interesting, commenting on any relevant features of language.



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- ★ How do Cassio's descriptions of Desdemona play into the plans of Iago (42/44)? How do their attitudes toward her differ?
- ★ Explain the occasions where Iago is able to persuade Cassio to do things that he does not want to (44/46). What does this reveal about Iago? Why is this important?
- ★ How does Othello react to Iago's telling of events (49/51)? What does this reveal about Iago? Why is this important?
- ★ How does Iago next advance his plot (54)?
- ★ Explain how Iago is being genuine about his 'honesty' in this soliloquy (54/55)? Quote and explain how he intends to turn it to his advantage.
- ★ Quote and explain how Iago effectively continues an image from a previous soliloquy in this Act.

