

# Othello

## Act 5

- ★ Summarise the main action of Act Five.
- ★ Iago's aside on page 118 outlines what must happen if his plot against Cassio and Othello is to be successful. Explain.
- ★ What does Roderigo aptly say just before he dies (121)? How does this differ from the rest of the play?
- ★ Iago has demonstrated how he can react and think on his feet throughout the play. How does he do just that in this frantic scene to further control the action (122/3/4)?
- ★ In what way does Iago's **couplet** at the end of the scene prove prophetic (124)?



- ★ What impression do you perceive from Othello's use of *repetition* at the beginning of the *climactic* IV:ii (125)?
- ★ Othello's soliloquy to open the scene is full of *contradictions* and *juxtapositions*. What do you think this reveals about Othello? Quote and explain as many as you can (125/126).
- ★ Othello believes he is acting out of justice throughout. How does his word choice continue this idea on page 127/8? Quote and explain.

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- ★ After being suffocated, Desdemona awakes briefly to have a final impact on the tragedy of Othello. Quote and explain her two *poignant* lines before she dies (131).
- ★ Othello's reaction to Desdemona having protected him with her dying words demonstrates the state of confusion he is in about the event. Quote and explain *how* (131).
- ★ Iago controlled every character in the play perfectly until the end. What was his attitude towards women throughout and how is this ultimately his downfall? How is the idea of his power ultimately ironic? How is Emilia shown to be more than the character she thought she was in IV:iii? (132 – 136)
- ★ Quote and explain how Lodovico characterises Othello perfectly on page 139.
- ★ Look at Iago's last line of the play (140). Othello has already characterised him as a/the devil. He also displays many traits we would expect from a demonic character: jealousy, hatred, evil, manipulation, power, control, and duplicity. Quote and explain how his final line adds to this portrayal for both the characters and the audience. What is your opinion of this ending?
- ★ How does Othello portray himself having been released from Iago's spell and realising the truth of what he has done (141/2)? Quote and explain. What is your opinion of Othello at the end of the play?

