



OTHELLO

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Othello

The Moor of Venice

William Shakespeare

Writing style in Othello

- Verse
- Prose
- Irony



Verse:

- Othello is written in blank verse
- Blank verse consists of unrhymed iambic pentameters, with five stressed syllables and five unstressed syllables to each line
- He uses this traditional form flexibly, varying the pace of his writing to achieve specific effects
- He creates specific idioms for each of his characters

Prose:

- Ordinary written language with no rhyme; organized in sentences
- Prose used for low status characters
- Proclamation, written challenges , letters, comedic moments and to express madness
- Shakespeare uses prose for familiar relationship

Irony:

- Othello is an essentially ironic play
- Shakespeare offers Iago some of the best language in the playwright's whole body of work
- His language makes him someone they trust
- Iago doesn't look like the villain he is

About play

- Shakespeare's play **Othello** written in 1604 and based on the Italian short story *Un Capitano Moro* (A Moorish Captain)
- Othello is one of Shakespeare's most highly concentrated, tightly constructed tragedies with no subplots and little humor to relieve the tension
- Othello is set in a private world and focuses on the passions and personal lives of its major figures

Theme In Othello



- Jealousy
- Warfare
- Hate
- Identity
- Race
- Manipulation
- Marriage

Main Characters

➤ Othello:

- General of the Venice army
- The position of General is the highly respected position of power
- Othello is a Moor (a native of North Africa, usually a Muslim)
- Eloquent and powerful figure



➤ Desdemona:

- The daughter of the Venetian senator Brabantio
- Othello's wife
- Desdemona is also determined and self possessed



➤ Iago:

- Blackest of all the Shakespeareans villains
- Villain of the play
- Othello ensign, a twenty year old military veteran from Venice
- He is obsessive, relentless, bold and ingenious in his efforts to manipulate and deceive the other characters.
- Iago's motivations are not notoriously murky.



➤ Emilia:

- Iago's wife and Desdemona's attendant
- A cynical and worldly woman
- She is deeply attached to her mistress and distrustful to her husband



➤ Roderigo:

- A jealous suitor of Desdemona
- Young, rich, and foolish Roderigo is convinced that if he give Iago all of his money
- Iago will help him Desdemona's hand
- He is frustrated because Othello marries Desdemona



Othello Symbols

➤ Handkerchief:

The significance of red is love, red strawberries like red heart on love token handkerchief



➤ Candle

The candle Othello blows out just before the murder of Desdemona



➤ Location

- Shakespeare uses different locations to represent the mindset
- In Othello Venice represent civilization while Cyprus symbolize wilderness





Summary

- On a street in Venice, there is an argument between Roderigo, a noble man and Iago, a Captain in the defense of forces
- Roderigo in love with the noble lady Desdemona, has paid large sums of money to Iago on the understanding that Iago would give her gifts from him and praise him to her. Roderigo hopes to win Desdemona's love and marry her

- However, they now have news that Desdemona has left the house of her father, Brabantio and eloped with Othello
- Roderigo fears he has lost both his lady and his money
- Iago reveals Roderigo that it is in his (Iago's) nature to plot and tell lies to what he wants and that he has a plan
- He hates Othello for promoting Cassio to the position of lieutenant, a position that Iago wanted for himself

- Iago plans to bring about Othello's downfall and Roderigo(he says) will have Desdemona
- Othello mistakenly places his trust in Iago, who is Othello's close friend and confident
- Iago carefully weaves trap after trap Othello's trusted aides, turning him against them and eventually even turns Othello against his wife

- Iago also plays Roderigo false; instead of winning Desdemona for Roderigo, he betrays him and murders him



Quotations

“ I am not what I am ”

(Shakespeare , Othello)

“ The robbed that smile , steals something from the thief ”

(Shakespeare , Othello)

Shakespearean tragedy

- Tragedy is concerned primarily with the tragic hero.
- Tragedy involves a person of high estate therefore, his or her fate affects the welfare of whole nation or empire.
- The hero undergoes to a sudden reversal of fortune.
- Shakespeare often introduces abnormal conditions of mind (such as , insanity)
- Supernatural elements are also introduced.

- The ultimate power in the tragic world is moral order; more specifically the struggle between good and evil
- Much of plot seems to hinge on “chance” or “accident”.
- Besides the outward conflict between the individuals or group of individuals, there is also an inner conflict and torment within the soul of tragic hero.
- The central impression of the tragedy is one of waste.