

shakes peare : An actor, share holder in an acting company so his acting and writing the place was bussiness and he got money from so he got money from the acting company that he shared.

→ shakespeare is a great playwright. He also wrote universal themes → in shakespeare's place, themes of love, death, parenthood, kinship → shakespeare is not flat the

reason why we read him makes him alive nowadays (we look into historical background)

and what makes his plays live and live forever it's not only the themes but it's also the <sup>①</sup> dramatic techniques that he used and it's the language of shakespeare.

\* Many people find shakespeare very difficult to read because of the <sup>②</sup> structure of the language and sentences.

He wrote in iambic Pentameter.

Rhythm

number of units in a line of poetry

Rhythm → combination of iambic → unstressed syllables followed by stressed syllables.



it's not only for his Poetry, it's also because of his use of metaphors & language → language that uses metaphors and similes, comparisons of all sort language that uses Allusions.

**Allusion** → references to either past history or past literature in a work of literature.

One important thing is that we look at the structure of the poem itself. Example: if you say: I ate an apple → Shakespeare is not satisfied with this kind of statement.

scrambled words. } An Apple I ate.  
At I am an apple.

They are all correct in the Shakespearean version of the language. He does that because he wants to keep a certain rhythm in the language and in the line of poetry and to avoid repetition.

and that's why Shakespeare becomes difficult to many people because the arrangement of this sentence is not normal.



\* Another important thing about shakespeare is the stage on which he performed this place Globe Theatre → one of the famous theaters that shakespeare used to perform in and used to work at  
→ why is it called the Globe Theatre?  
because it's in a circle (round in circle in shape)

shakespeare did not have the pens that we have nowadays, what he used to write was basically his feather / quill that he used to dip in ink. he did not have any lighting / No lighting. it was no electricity so it must have been very difficult, but shakespeare is patient and he was able to write all these plays more than 35 plays that he wrote in these kind of circumstances

→ About shakespeare's language is his soliloquy  
↳ soliloquy is a long speech usually given by an actor when that actor is on the stage on his own, like, he's talking to the audience but he's talking his mind out.  
↳ means expressing himself without any other character on the stage. (we study this technique that shakespeare uses.)



How Shakespeare's plays affects teenagers in a bad mood? → Because women were not allowed to act among the stage during Shakespeare's time. So in 16th, 17th century → they were not allowed so they selected young boys whose voices were not yet broken and they used to dress them up in women's clothes so that they look like women → they got bullied for that.

Shakespeare wrote for the theater and knew exactly what to write and how to present his material for acting.

He was an actor and a shareholder in an acting company called The Lord Chamberlain's company → he had a clear idea of the theater that he was writing for. It's a theater that is circular in shape, open in the room. So the plays have to be performed during the day time, spring time and summer, but not in the winter.



What is interesting about Shakespearean theatre or the Globe theater is that inside the theater is the stage projected into the audience, no curtains that separated the actors from the audience, and so in a sense, the members of the audience were varied, audience came from different levels of society,

↓ There are those who are the poor members of the audience, they used to stand up, stand around the stage, they are very noisy and loud and they will eat and sometimes, if they don't like a certain play or acting, they would throw things, eggs. → poor member of the audience called Groundlings. The richer members of the audience would sit on cushion chairs on tiers (they call them tiers).

\* The stage itself had a certain pit pit → a door on the floor of the stage and this door would open when supernatural elements appear on the stage for the supernatural elements to appear on the stage → in several of his plays he would use ghosts.



ghosts appear → so this door it's what we call a **trap door** would open and the ghost like in the play "Hamlet"

The play Hamlet begins with a ghost appearing talking to Hamlet, the Prince.

Ghosts or sometimes it's the **witches** → appear in the play Macbeth

\* sounds are elementary. sound and music is basically elementary, in the shakespeare of his time

& NO women on the stage → young boys would wear the costumes of women

and would clear the voice of someone like women like lady Macbeth or Ophelia → Hamlet's lover. → **All these**

**were played by men.**

→ NO lights, how would you indicate for example the rise of the sun or sunset?

Shakespeare would use **the language itself to explain** that it is early morning or that it is nighttime. for example,

in Hamlet, when Hamlet's father's pose appears at the beginning of a play, during the night time, it's very dark.

So Shakespeare has to say that it is

night time in the language itself or if it's morning → he has to indicate that it is morning in the language itself.



for example: he might say that one of the characters would say that the cock crows outside. it's early morning when the cock crows outside → so all these kind of indications that offstage are done in the language itself. we need to understand how he makes reference to the setting through the language itself.  
→ it's not only the language, it's the costumes. what kind of costumes did shakespeare use? we talking about the 16<sup>th</sup> century, shakespeare was born in 1564, he died in 1616, so we talk about most of his works were created in the first begins with Queen Elizabeth I → that is why sometimes this age called it's based on age. she ruled for a number of years for at least for 45 years and she didn't get married, she sacrificed and she was strong woman. Although the state of woman was not respected, Elizabeth I → strong monarch and also a supporter of the arts and theaters.  
\* Although in shakespeare's plays, you will find out that most of the women characters are divided into 2 categories.



\* Most of the women characters are either what we call ① the lovers, lovers who are the prostitutes → lover like of helia for example or any other lover in Romeo and Juliet. Sometimes you will find out that women are treated more like prostitutes in Shakespeare's plays. But there are also ② the controlling women in Shakespeare for example, in Lady and Macbeth who controls his own life.

→ we look at the role of women and how it relates to the fact that the monarch at the time was Queen Elizabeth (a woman).

\* Rhythm in the language → when we talk about the language of Shakespeare we talk about verse vs prose.

↓  
Poetry

↓  
everyday language

↓  
has no rhyme

Shakespeare used the verse more mostly poetry that is to address the higher level of the audience. Those who are aristocratic and who speak usually in verse.



Prose was used in order to address the level of understanding of the poorer members of the audience, so he mixed between verse and prose.

\* Poetry has an **internal rhythm**, most of ten **rhyme**. The rhythm is the iambic pentameter.

The difference between Rhyme and Rhythm?

**Rhyme** → the similarities in the consonant sounds usually at the end of 2 lines of Poetry like coffee.

**Rhythm** → internal kind of music or pattern of music in a line of Poetry.

\* one of difficulty in reading Shakespeare is following the ideas → (Follow the thought in speech.)

\* Note: — an idea doesn't end with one line of Poetry, the idea doesn't end with the end of the line.

So sometimes the ideas might stretch over 10 lines of Poetry → How can follow the thought if it 10 lines of Poetry?

↓ This is one of complexity of Shakespeare's language.

Shakespeare's lines are full of questions interrogation.



\* the important part of speech that Hamlet gives "To be or not to be" that in the question and in that famous speech he asks several questions (he doesn't answer these questions) → Rhetorical Questions means questions didn't require an answer.

\* How do we read Shakespeare?

- 1) Know the context of the action of the play (most of the action in Shakespearean play takes place not in England - where he was born, but outside or in the continent in Europe; most of the
- 2) Setting of place take place outside either in Italy or Greece or in Scotland

\* why does Shakespeare choose the action to take place somewhere else outside of Britain or outside of England?

→ why he choose Italy for example in Romeo and Juliet → most of the action take place in Verona.



And it's not only Italy as far as Romeo and Juliet is concerned, there are other places where the action takes place in Italy.

like **Venice** → is the most of the action takes place of Othello in Venice

→ Venice is a centre of civilization during Shakespearean style and until nowadays it's a centre of culture and art.

Not only does he conjugate on one particular setting, but most of his plays, the action of the plays takes place in a double setting (**dual setting**).

→ The action takes place in one setting at the beginning of the play and moves on to another setting, in the middle of a play and that is for a particular purpose.

3) Language (we need to understand the language).

4) The themes are important.

5) Characterisation (how he creates his characters).

6) Structure of the play → important.

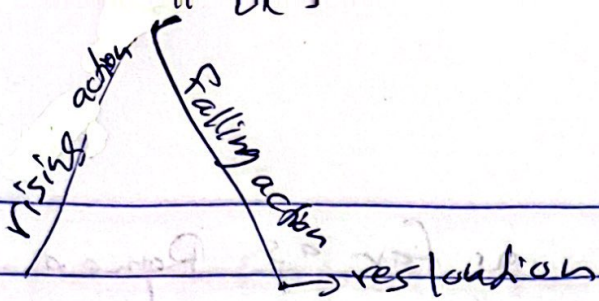
↳ in main divisions of a play (A typical

**Shakespearean** play is made up of 5 acts.

Five acts with this kind of traditional

block structure.





→ usually one main plot in the play, but although we might find some (sub plot)

usually disappear through the development of the main plot.

\* The plays that we're going to read

1) Othello

2) Macbeth } → Tragedy

3) Hamlet

4) Midsummer night Dream } → Comedy

5) Taming of the Shrew

\* Shrew → means a woman who is very loud sometimes they're recorded as wild and needs to be tamed.

Othello → is representative of how Shakespeare thinks of global issues, he presents several issues.

\* Othello is the name of a military leader and the action of the play takes place in Venice, But this military leader is not Venetian, he's not Italian → He comes from North Africa.

North Africa



So Othello is someone (leader) who comes from North Africa, is of a darker skin than the Venetians (The skinned military leader)

→ Why does Shakespeare include that military leader in the play?

→ Because he raises several issues concerning the racism.

We start with a Venetian, a Venetian's daughter → A white woman eloped with a dark skinned man but at the same time this dark skinned, the military has a high level in the military in Venice (Complex and Gender situation), it used to be an issue especially in the 16th century and Europe because Europe and Italy regarding itself as a dominant power, and the senator's daughter eloping with the dark skinned man is a scandal in a society at the time. So on Othello → we start with this theme of mixed marriage.

→ Shakespeare uses verses in his plays, poems many critics base the reading of Shakespearean tragedy on what Aristotle's definition of tragedy.

Aristotle → Greek philosopher that created his own definition of tragedy and who a tragic hero is.



He defined tragedy as an imitation of an action. This action is serious. He uses metaphoric language.

**Tragic hero** → could be that he dies but not necessarily, he suffers from the beginning until the end and he experiences a lot of pain, but that suffering and pain is a result of his own action, his own decision and is a result of what Aristotle calls "**hamartia**" → kind of flaw, we find in the character → that brings about the downfall of that hero, downfall from a good position into a reverse position → Example: Oedipus.

**Oedipus Rex** → the play starts when Oedipus is a king and ends when Oedipus is a beggar who blinds himself and who is a blind beggar because he blinds himself as a result of his own decision and his decision was to follow the investigation and find out who he is, who his father and mother.

**Notes Reversal of situation** → when a character starts as a good and ends up in death.



In Shakespeare there's blood and violence in tragedy, most of which is not shown on the stage and in Shakespearean tragedy there's no poetic justice.

Poetic justice → when a character who is villain is punished at the end of the play  
↳ means villains are often not punished and the good people are punished so in Shakespeare we have a lack of poetic justice

\* The themes of Othello:

- 1) racism
- 2) justice
- 3) suffering
- 4) revenge
- 5) reputation
- 6) deception
- 7) Jealousy

Background: the action in Othello, the play takes place in 2 settings:

- 1) Venice (Italy)
- 2) Cyprus (Greece)

Historical context → we talk about 16<sup>th</sup> century Venice was regarded as the centre of civilization, commerce, it had a lot of trade with other countries, it was the centre of art, culture, music.

In 16<sup>th</sup> century, Cyprus was a part of the Venetian Republic



There's a long distance between Venice and Cyprus and there's one military threat against Cyprus and Venetian Republic and that's the Ottomans or Turks.

Othello is not Venetian, he comes from the North Africa → They were called him "**Moors**", the Venetians employed those Moors for either commerce or for military purposes.

By the beginning of the play, we find out that he has already established himself as a military leader with a good (high) reputation. But also we find out that he is already married the daughter of the Duke of Venice (he eloped with his daughter, so Othello married).

**Desdemona** is the daughter of a senator in Venice.

Mixed culturally mixed marriage.

↳ Othello → dark skin, different ethnicity.

Desdemona → white skin, aristocratic.

**Roderigo** → He used to be in love with Desdemona. Although he knows that she is already eloped with Othello.



**Iago** → a character who presents his story to us and at the beginning of the play, he tells us his story. He has several stories to tell us.

**Iago** → is jealous of Othello giving a high position to another character called **Cassio**. Iago tells us that in his own words:

↳ "**I am not what I am**" → maybe it means insecurities, there is a discrepancy between what he appears to be and what he really is. He's talking about his personality, psychology, his psyche, he will make use of his appearance as someone who's good as opposed to what he feels inside and as someone who's jealous. → at the beginning of the play Iago presents us as someone who makes use of Rodrigo (manipulator) and Rodrigo apparently has given Iago money so that he makes Rodrigo come closer to Desdemona. So Rodrigo is being manipulated by Iago at the very beginning of the play, and from the beginning he / Iago tells us "I hate him" → Iago hates Othello and he never calls him by his name, he refers to him as the "moon" → it's a "racist address" and he uses also animalistic imagery to talk about Othello.



like he might call him a horse or a pig  
"Moor" is used by other characters in  
the play not only Iago, it used  
by Rodrigo, Desdemona's father  
After that describe him as someone's  
who's an outsider

\* The play begins in "Midea Res"  
↳ Latin term means begins with  
middle of action

→ The middle of conversation between  
Iago and Rodrigo → Iago dominates  
the conversation

\* Act 1 scene 1

Thou → means "you"

hast → has

shouldst → should

who has had my Purse → reference to money

→ Rodrigo has given him money for some  
kind of thing to do, but then he tells  
them that you have never told me this

"Thou didst me thou didst hold him  
in thy hate" → Iago already expressed  
his hate to Othello previously, and  
he expressed his anger

Iago tells a story → complaining about  
himself.



he complaining about the position that he did not get and that Cassio bought so Iago feels angry because he knows his worth and he knows his price but he →

refers to Othello

arithmetic man → he's no experience in the military (Cassio), he has not a military leader no military experience in the field (battle).

Florentine → Cassio comes from Florence, not a Venetian.

"unless he bookish theoretic" → he only knows theory so he speaks, theorizes but he has no practical of experience in his all soldiering.

→ Iago feels a lack of justice of Othello  
↳ the fact that Othello selected someone else who doesn't deserve the position.

"preferment goes by letter and affection"

↳ it seems that Othello was in love with Cassio so that's why he gave him that position.

"To love the Moor" → Othello → racist conversation about Othello.

Rodrigo used racist language

↳ p. 12 line 72 "thick lips"

↳ racist expression about appearance.



So Iago encourages Rodrigo to go to Desdemona's father and tell him/ announce that Desdemona has eloped with Othello.

"Thieves, Thieves", "your daughter and your baggage" → Iago is calling Othello as a thief → he has stolen his daughter, calling out in Brabantio. so this how Iago presents himself at the beginning of the play → the fact that he manipulates, jealous of Othello

Othello → is a complex character → we can talk about his position in the political but we can talk about him as an outsider to the society of Venice

Venice → an oligarchy, means that it's a country that is ruled by a small number of people not one person

also Venice commercial centre, and military power that extended through the Mediterranean and extended to Cyprus.

When we talk about Venice → we talk about Republic ruled by a small number of people headed by a Duke.



\* Rodrigo → suitor but this suitor is rejected by Desdemona's father

Iago → is an ensign in military (refers to low ranking soldier in the military).

→ At the beginning of the play we establish a kind of relationship between Rodrigo and Iago (financial relationship).

↳ Rodrigo gives Iago money (he uses him) here as audience can see Othello through the eyes of Rodrigo and Iago

Iago is angry and jealous because Othello has given the promotion to Cassio

Cassio → becomes a lieutenant and the decision of Othello.

According to Iago → Cassio is an arrhenetician and has lack of experience in military field

\* Both Iago and Rodrigo called him a Moor

↳ racist expression, it shows their hatred, but also prejudice against the outsider  
→ Othello is unknown entity to the Venetian society.

Rodrigo describes Othello as a Thick lips and also a thief

Iago → "I am not what I am"

↳ meaning that he has many faces and he admits that.



→ Iago and Roderigo both hate Othello.

\* The setting of interlocking dialogue is (open space).

The action takes place in (the middle of the night time).

The place → is Public street underneath the window of Barbantio's house (Desdemona's father).

Why would Shakespeare include a public street as the setting of the play? and it's the (night time)?

↳ indicate something hidden  
Symbol of - Moral Darkness, deception.

↳ the hidden is the elopement of Desdemona (the marriage)

Public street → a public place with Othello as opposed to a private place.

↳ They are in a public place but then they move on to Desdemona's house (private place) → so the action moves from the general kind of comprehensive setting to the more private setting of the Desdemona's house and this is when both Iago and Roderigo start shouting **Therfs Therfs**.



Iago calls othello thief indicates he's accusing him of stealing his daughter but the daughter is an object (Not a human being) → an object to be stolen (Destemona).

Iago does not agree directly tell him that othello already married his daughter

Black ram → refers to othello.

White ewe → refers to Destemona.

→ he uses racist attitude, the fact that he's referring to othello as an animal → an animal trying to take advantage of his white ewe.

↓ gentle kind of animal

he's being racist by describing othello as an animal using animal imagery.

"the devil will make a grand sire of you"

→ he doesn't wake grandfather  
the citizens around him, the devil will already othello make a grandfather of Brabantio.

So othello not only as an animal but also as a devil. and it seems that it's normal for Iago to describe any outsider in these terms.

the father telling Rodrigo not to approach him because his daughter is not for Rodrigo



What tell 'st thou me of robbing?

This is Venice. My house is not a grange

↳ he's telling Iago and Rodregio, Are you talking about robbery? you can't talk of robbery in Venice.

Grange → meaning my house is not a Farm

This Venice → reflects the arrogance and pride of the Venetians in their own country.

Iago continues with animal imagery

↳ "Barberly horse"

↳ refers to Othello → racist attitude  
↳ it shows how cynical Iago is.

meaning → he's barbaric horse that would sleep with his own daughter.

↳ he will have nephew's neigh to you.

↳ Neigh is the sound of a horse

So nephew means grandchildren →

young horses for Grandchildren.

Iago then has to get tell him directly of the situation → he tells him,

I am one sir that comes to tell you

your daughter and the Moor are

now making the beast with two backs



the result → the beast (not a human being)  
so that shows how racist Iago is  
also Rodrigo makes reference to Othello  
↳ racist reference → "Lascivious Moor"  
means a Moor he's sensual.

Page 17: "Your Daughter - ... yourself."

↳ he's telling that his daughter (Desdemona) has deceived him. she has not been loyal to him and not loyal to him with a stranger → by being tying / committing herself to a stranger → this emphasis on Othello as an outsider not only by Iago but also by Rodrigo and Desdemona's father.

→ Brabantio goes into the house to find out if Iago is telling the truth and he doesn't find his daughter → he becomes very angry and he rushes to the duke's palace → so the private matter (family issue) goes to the duke so the duke becomes a public matter and the duke has to make his judgment on that → To imprison Othello for example and punish Desdemona as a result of not committing herself to his father.

\* Introductory scene → we have family issue a father losing his daughter to an outsider.



Iago through his own presentation → he is not what he is, has 2 faces, he resents Othello, racist, manipulator he's money driven.

↳ when he manipulates Rodrigo, he encourages Rodrigo to go to Brabantio's house and awake him → tell him that his daughter has been eloped. also he manipulates Rodrigo by taking money from him.

Rodrigo → he's in love with Desdemona and he rejected by Desdemona's father and the fact that he's willing to pay whatever in order to get close to Desdemona. He's also racist.

↳ Iago, Rodrigo and Brabantio → established Othello as "the other" → he outsider.

Brabantio → senator, resents Rodrigo (he wants Othello punished and he wants to annul the marriage → means regard member of the senate. the marriage is illegal).



Scene 2: Political Plot → the danger against the Cyprus Othello reputation is established  
**Reputation** → an important theme throughout the whole play, Iago wants to keep his reputation as someone who's honest.

Brabantio → wants to keep his reputation and he thinks that his reputation has been smeared by his daughter's elopement.

Reputation → is associated with Aristotle's idea of **Peripetia**

↳ means, according to Aristotle is a term that Aristotle used which means a **(Reversal of fortune)** → Ex: Othello experiences a Peripetia → a reversal of fortune from good at the beginning to bad by the end of the play.

\* with the introduction of the Political Plot → we introduce Othello as **high reputation well respected as a military leader** even though he has regarded as "the other" by other characters like Iago, Rodrigo, Brabantio.

\* **setting** → the Duke's Palace  
Iago at the beginning of the scene 2 → begins to practice his **swifthy** hypocrisy against particularly with Othello.



Iago is telling Othello that he's heard from Brabantio say some bad things about Othello. "I had thought have jerked him here under the ribs" → means he wish that he could hit Brabantio for speaking a such against Othello. "And spoke such scurrilous and provoking terms against your honor" → Iago is being hypocritical, he's telling Othello that as heard → Brabantio insult Othello, and also telling him that the Duke might divorce him and that he might put restraint upon him. → he started this kind of double face dress against Othello, like, he is his friend and he's advising him. Line 20, Othello respond → "Let him do his spite" --- this reveal that Othello is confident, it shows his confidence of his services. He has done the services so he feels proud of those services and he has nothing to hide.

"I fetch my life and being from men of royal siege" → he's a royal siege he's of a royal heritage (he's a noble man) even though he's an outsider but still he is a noble man.



Brabantio confronts Othello about the elopement and he tells him what he feels about him. So Brabantio at the first → he's accused him of being a **foul thief**. and he tells him that he has used magic "**If she in chains of magic**" → means Othello enchanted Desdemona she used magic in order to attract her to him. Because as Brabantio tells Othello → his daughter is a "**maid**" → means young woman, tender (gentle), fair, happy → she supposed to marriage → so why would she have shunned many other men, why would she look at him? So she runs away from all these young men and look to find "**Sooty bosom**".

Sooty → Black

↓ racist comment

Why would his daughter run away to the sooty bosom unless Othello has used magic? Line 94 → "**foul charms**" → means magical things in order to attract attention.

"Abused he delicate youth with drugs or minerals" → he may have used drugs in order to minerals.

He accuses him of being an "**abuser**" "**a Practicer of arts inhibited**" → means a practitioner of magic, magic is an art that is inhibited.



page 27 → this particular of speech  
the part of Brabantio shows that  
Brabantio is afraid of Othello (the  
fear of "the other". so Othello is not  
part of the group → he is outside  
the group. (outside the community).

Brabantio afraid of him → Othello is  
unknown (comes from a place that is  
to Brabantio).

Brabantio associates love with a  
kind of **witchcraft and magic**.

then he demands that Othello goes to

But when he goes to Duke and she

is in Council at a meeting that

that particular purpose, now the

turks are threatening Cyprus, and

Duke is meeting in order to get Othello

to find out what they can do about

the Turkish threat against Cyprus,

so the Duke calls on Othello as

he would lead the campaign military

leader to Cyprus, he wants to send

Othello to Cyprus in order to find

what they do about the Turkish threat

against Cyprus.



this is all happens before Brabantio was able to meet with duke and complain about othello's elopement.

Scene 3 → we find out that the duke calls on othello but then Brabantio tells the duke of his complaint about othello.

\* othello is called for a double purpose:

- 1) to lead the military campaign to Cyprus
- 2) he's been questioned about his elopement

This part tells a lot about othello's character.

Page 35: othello tells his story of love before the duke and before Brabantio.

line 91: "most Potent, ... I won his daughter"

↳ othello is being respectful, he addresses the senators and the duke well, he's honest, he acknowledges the marriage he doesn't deny it.

"Rude am I in my speech and little blessed with the soft phrase of peace."

↳ it seems that he has good command of English language.

\* he says that all his experience and most of his life is in the battlefield  
→ so he's not experienced in the respectful circumstances of the duke and the senators.



he's trying to be humble in front of them and so in a sense, he will tell them his true story of love → he will deliver his true story without any exaggeration. Then Othello demands that Desdemona is brought before the senate to tell her story (Page 37 line 135).

Othello begins to tell his story (P. 37 line 136).  
"After father loved me" ... it seems that both Othello and Brabantio were friends.  
starts from 150 ... 176 (Long statement).

and the main subject and verb of that sentence "It was my will to speak" means it was his intention to speak of all these stories of his life.

(that he mentions above).

→ what he is saying here is that her father, Brabantio, used to invite Othello in order to tell his adventure stories.

And it seems that Desdemona was listening to all these stories of adventure and apparently, she fell in love with him because of all these adventures that he narrated to her father → it seems that she has a romantic view of these adventures so she fell in love with him.



And at the end of his long speech page 41  
line 193 "she loved me .... witness it."

↳ means she loves him and she was  
attracted to him through the stories that  
he told (the Adventure stories) → being brave  
for this Adventure stories.

pity → she felt empathy, sympathized and  
she was attracted to these stories.

↳ he tells everybody that this is the only the  
witchcraft that he used → in reality he's  
not a magician.

↳ Desdemona tells her story other side  
of the story.

↳ Othello shows himself to be experienced,  
confident in adventure and in the battlefield  
he knows well to express himself, that he's  
able to convince others of his own story.

page 41 line 208-210 "My noble father ... Lord"

↳ she has a divided duty towards her  
father who gave her life and her education  
and towards her husband → she's being  
logical and reasonable in what she said.

"And so much duty ... Lord" → she's making  
reference to the kind of duty and loyalty  
that her mother gave to Brebantho.



\* Desdemona → clever / intelligent.

She's respectful, loyal to both her father and husband, logical.

Due to the Moor my Lord.

she is making reference to Othello as the Moor.

\* None of the characters call him by name (Othello).

\* Act 1 scene 3:

↳ 1) Othello defence of his own marriage with Desdemona

2) Desdemona defence

3) Iago's soliloquy → at the end of

\* who's who in the play?

[1] The Duke of Venice → who plays a certain role at the beginning of the Act 1.

[2] Othello → Military general, he's an African Moor.

[3] Cassio → Othello's lieutenant, he's Florentine, mathematician to Iago.

[4] Iago → Othello's ensign, he's a Venetian career soldier

[5] Rodrigo → A jealous suitor of Desdemona

[6] Brabantio → Desdemona's father, he's Venetian

[7] Desdemona → The daughter of the Venetian



Act 1 scene 3: begins with business senate and Duke discussing the Turkish attack on Cyprus, and all the characters from scene 2 appear on stage in scene 3, Othello is on trial before the senate as his love for Desdemona and his public office, and in his defence → Othello shares his story of how he wooed Desdemona and asks that Desdemona be brought to tell her story. We also listening to Brabantio describes Desdemona a passive yet when she defends her love she does very courageously → How would the audience respond? the fact that her father looks and describes her as someone who a passive. Brabantio shares with the senate that Desdemona has been **bewitched** → he disowns her → means decides she's not his **daughter anymore**.

\* In scene 3 → we see **juxtaposition** of the domestic sphere and the political sphere.

**Juxtaposition** → means placing of **abusing** in this scene next to each other.

**Domestic sphere** → A reflection of the political **side of the plot**.

↓ Because it basically discussed issues like who to trust (The issue of trust, Tactics (how we deal with people), strategies the idea of **Alliances** (who support who).



and what seems and what is in reality  
↳ common issues between the domestic sphere.

→ Brabantio has a harsh opinion of how his daughter should not be trusted when he tells Othello "Look to her Moor, if thou hast eyes to see she has deceived her father and may thee" → it shows that Brabantio's harsh opinion of her daughter and he warned Othello to look out for Desdemona.

\* Does Desdemona act deceived on the play or doesn't? → the question will answer later.

Scene 3 ends with Iago fooling Rodrigo that he may get Desdemona back.

→ Iago asks him for more money and to sell part of his land in order to get money.

\* The scene ends with Iago's soliloquy establishing his own power.

\* The Domestic sphere in scene 3 made up of 3 parts:  
1) Brabantio's accusation  
2) Othello's defence  
3) Desdemona's defence



\* In Brabantio complaint / accusation → Brabantio presents the twin themes of Sorcey / witchcraft and the fact that Desdemona is just a part of property (second class property status) → it reflects his view of women (particularly his daughter) → he looks at Desdemona like an object that had been stolen from him → he claims she has been "abused" stolen from me and corrupted by spells and medicines → associated with magic he presents Desdemona as a passive and modest maiden who blushes at the least provocation and who without unnatural intervention could never "fall in love with what she feared to look at" → this is what Brabantio said to Senate.

he said he can not imagine how his own daughter has fallen in love with Othello (she feared when she looked at).

\* Othello Defence: Othello presenting himself → he's not the base and brute monster that Iago and Brabantio would have the audience believe he is. He is able to win with Senator for his side through carefully chosen rhetorical strategies (the way he speaks such as appealing to their egos and emotions).

→ By the end of the speech the Duke says: what Othello has told the Senate would win his own daughter → it shows the Duke convinced with



\* Othello's speech: we learn much about his nature. He establishes himself as warrior, a man who has been in constant battle from the age of seven until just nine months prior to the play's action. And he claims to know little of the world, save for that which he knows from being on the battlefield.

↳ means he's not experienced in the world, but he more experienced in the battle field.

Page 35 + 39-41 Othello's defence → Othello

Present his field and his character, the fact that he is humble, self-confident, and Brabantio has invited him to talk about past.

\* interesting quote: "she loved me for the dangers that I had passed and I loved her that she did pity them" → what kind of love?

he loves him for his bravery and the kind of adventure that has been through.

Pity → doesn't seem a good foundation for love and marriage.

Why does Shakespeare use the word "Pity"?

↳ Desdemona showed her emotions → she

fell in love with him in romantic sense.

The fact that she loved dangers he had been through and the way he spoke about his dangers.



So Shakespeare use the word pity to highlight the simplicity / naivety of their marriage

\* Desdemona's Defence :- logical kind of response → she shows rhetorical skill with the way she address her father in particular and the senate in general. she talks about "divided duty"  
Desdemona remarks how she is indebted and bound to Brabantio for her life

she is indebted to her father for bringing her to life and education but also she is indebted to her husband whom she will spend the rest of her years.

she appeals to her father reasoning that just as her mother left her grandfather to marry Brabantio, so too must she leave him to marry

Ishmo. "But there's my husband, and so much duty as my mother showed to you preferring you to her father"

\* Iago's first soliloquy (last part of scene)

↳ How does this speech help to engage the audience in the next parts of the play?

Why would Shakespeare give Iago the opportunity to speak?

Why can Soliloquy be powerful for a playwright?



Soliloquy → is a speech where only one actor speaks and usually no one else but the audience can hear him.

Soliloquies are useful in plays because otherwise how can the audience know what a character is thinking about

→ Soliloquies are artificial, people don't normally talk to themselves and reveal their thoughts and plans in real life but soliloquies enable a playwright to reveal what a character is really thinking and planning. and they help to build a closer relationship between the characters and the audience.

→ So Iago's soliloquy tells us as audience what he is thinking, and it brings us closer to Iago's character

\* Texts of Iago's soliloquy:

When Rodrigo leaves soliloquy, Iago said "thus do I ever make my fool my purse ... snip" → he's talking about Rodrigo. no reference to purse again.

money

Snip → means a fool, he would not spend time with such a fool (Rodrigo) expect for 2 things: 1) for his entertainment 2) for money (profit).



Rodregio and Iago → their relationship based on money  
he said "I hate the Moor" → he address his hatred towards Othello

"twixt my sheets" → reference to his marriage

Iago hates Othello because he thinks that Othello has slept with his wife (Emilia) → rumor

"Has done my office" → means he slept with

my own wife, and he says "I know not if 't be true" → he doesn't know if that's true or not

but / even though he take it as true / for sure

"He held me well" → means he had high respect

reference to Othello, he trust him

"my purpose work on him" → Iago's purpose work better on Othello

"Cassio's a proper man" → Cassio a good man

Iago thinking about Cassio's place / position and at the same time how he can take revenge of Othello because he hates him

"double knavery" → double purpose → 1) to get Cassio's place 2) take revenge

"to abuse Othello's ear" → he will make use of Othello by poisoning Othello's mind (ear).

and how he poisoning? By pretending that he has heard that Cassio is too familiar close to his wife (Desdemona)



"that he ... dispose"

↓ refers to Cassio

Cassio → kind of person that he might be suspected because he is known to be around women

"the Moor ... are" → he's describing how he thinks about Othello

he thinks / feels that Othello is free and open nature → he means he's not restricted, open nature → open to every body too trust people → fooled by people around him he might think that men are honest / he trusts people blindly

"asses are"

↓ means Donkey

"I have of ... Hell and night"

↓ have a plan

engendered → almost ready

Hell and night → refers to evil, Darkness in the world

"this monstrous birth ..."

↓ this plan → he knows that his plan is evil

Hell, light → just a position  
↳ contrast between evil and good in the world



he has planned and so he has to carry out his plan into the world's light.

The plan → is to poison Othello's mind to take Cassio's position → it shows Iago's mind he's evil inside, mean to Othello, Desdemona, Rodrigo and Cassio → he's evolved all in his plan. He's a psychopath, he likes to see people suffer.

\* what we take away from act 1 :

- 1) The secret marriage of Othello and Desdemona and the implications of that → how it affects the action → how it impacts Duke, Cassio, Rodrigo
- 2) Meeting the villain Iago and Rodrigo.
- 3) Meeting the protagonist (Othello).
- 4) Reactions towards the marriage - Brabantio Duke
- 5) Iago, plot for revenge
- 6) we have juxtaposition/contrast between the private and public matters.

\* Soliloquy 1 → Iago's mentality → 1) Dark plan  
looks at others only in evil eyes. 2) Psychopath

he's predator → related to animals  
his works only based on his emotions.

→ Aggressive → Predator means when they observe others then they take opportunity when others are on a weak position or vulnerable so they attack them aggressively.



\* Manipulative → he manipulates Rodrigo, Cassio, Desdemona, Othello.

he has two reasons for hatred Othello :-

1) Cassio's Promotion

2) Othello may have slept with his wife.

He's not sensitive → he lacks empathy -

he's detached from others, he's

looking at people like an object that can play with.

\* He shows **pride** in manipulating others

he talks about Rodrigo as being stupid and Othello being too honest & Cassio being a proper man.

\* he's a master designer of plans (evil).

↓ **Architect**

Iago says about Othello → seems vulnerable  
Othello blind to Iago's evil.

\* Soliloquy 2 → presents **Dramatic Irony** - unity.  
this unity between audience and Iago.

\* **Act 2 scene 1** :-

↳ change the setting from Venice to Cyprus.

**Action** → The Turkish Threat

There's a strong storm that destroys the Turkish fleet → the war is over.

↓ "our wars are done"

→ political issue is removed.

Domestic issue

The war in the family is not over (between Othello and Desdemona)



\* Why does Shakespeare use a storm to destroy the fleet? → The storm is a natural force so this natural force interferes on lives of human beings. → the storm is very strong.  
→ Important character in scene 1 → Othello  
All characters come from Venice into Cyprus  
Montano → the Governor of Cyprus  
\* Othello's character introduced at the beginning of the scene 1

"For I have ... regard" → Montano says about Othello, full soldier → Brave in battle → So Montano asserts Othello's bravery.

In this scene → we look / listen to Cassio  
Cassio's view of other characters → particularly, his view of Desdemona  
and this marks important clue / shadowing of what happens later

P.63 "Most fortunately ... In general" → Cassio's view of Desdemona, he's complementing her.  
he's saying → Desdemona is perfect, No one can describe her beauty and can be fair to her beauty and character (she goes beyond description)  
Cassio is honest in his true description of Desdemona

P.65 "Has ... Divine Desdemona" → he brings Desdemona to a higher level up to a level to Divine → means nothing access the beauty of Desdemona.  
→ (Divine creator)



Page 67: [He kisses Emilia]

↓ Iago's wife

Emilia appears in the first time

"let it ... courtesy" → he explains the fact that he kisses his wife → it's parts of breeding / manners to show courtesy with women

Cassio has a good nature → he shows his love when he kisses women (love to him to mean respect)

"sir ... enough" → kind of negative remark, he said about Emilia → she has a sharp tongue, this is show that Iago is misogynist.

"Come on ... beds" → Iago insults women he says if you are injuried (women) that become saints (innocents) she's offending,

Slanderer → means offender so it shows Iago's view of women

Page 73: "O, my fair warrior"

["My Dear, Othello!"] → Addressing her wife,

["It gives ... fate!!"]

→ Romantic scene between Othello and Desdemona

For the first time after their marriage

→ it's important scene because later on this kind of romantic relationship is complete change



"warrior" → kind of language that he's familiar with.

"if it were now to die, <sup>there</sup> now to be most happy -- fate" → if he were to die now he would be the most happy because he has a contentive soul (satisfied) → he's very comfortable and that he doesn't wish any kind of comfort.

↳ Love here is comfort & peace, marriage of true minds. (according to Othello).

→ Iago convinces Roderigo that this marriage will not last.

Page 75: "Lay ... already" → Iago trying to convince Roderigo that eventually Desdemona will be sexually bored with Othello and leave him → so she starts looking for others she starts looking for Cassio → because Cassio has all the qualities that she is looking for.

↳ Iago is poisoning Roderigo's mind but Roderigo doesn't believe that, but then he continues his manipulation → then he manipulates / encourages Roderigo to fight with Cassio because once Cassio fights with him his reputation is ruined then he has a better opportunity to take his place.

→ Then Roderigo now is convinced → he will go and provoke Cassio.



Page 79: Soliloquy 2 → Iago's soliloquy. "  
"that Cassio loves her, I do well believe of"  
↳ he's sharing with the audience that  
Cassio is in love with Desdemona.

Cassio and Desdemona love each other for his  
own credit, but then he talks about Moor

"The Moor ~ ~ ~ Noble nature" → he

says even though I hate Othello, if still  
Othello is of a constant, loving and noble  
nature → the most dear husband.

"I do love her" → Iago loves Desdemona.

"Not out ~ ~ ~ sin" → he's confused about  
his love, is it lust? sexual?

"But partly ~ ~ ~ Revenge" → Iago  
loves Desdemona is partly to satisfy his  
revenge.

"For that ~ ~ ~ lusty Moor" → he suspects  
that Othello has slept with his wife  
(repeats the same idea).

So he wants revenge because he  
suspects that Othello has slept with Emilia.

↳ it shows how Iago is evil, twisting.

"Till ~ ~ ~ Cure" → Iago loves Desdemona  
because he wants to be evil with Othello  
but if he cannot do that → he wants to  
make Othello jealous → insight Othello's jealousy.



"Poor trash of Venice" → refers to Rodenigo.

"whom . . . too" → he fears that Cassio may have slept with his wife too.

→ he doesn't trust Emilia

Act 2 scene 3: what's the immediate occasion of the soliloquy in this act?

what Iago had advised Cassio?

Page 95 line 218: "Now, by heaven . . . began't"

→ Othello is very angry and he starts losing his temper because he hear a lot of noise outside and he assert that Cassio would engaged to fight but Cassio is to be punished because of this fight and he punished, he will loses his position as a lieutenant so Cassio is angry because he loses his position and he loses his reputation

Page 99 line 280: "Reputation . . . reputation"

he's not much worried about his position as much about his reputation as a gentleman in this society.

→ Iago takes advantage of that kind of feeling. (she tells/advices Cassio that he should seek Desdemona and ask her to talk to Othello to reinstate him as lieutenant because

(put him back in his position) he knows that she has a much influence in her husband  
→ part of Iago's plan



At page 103 line 356: "And what's he, then, that says I play the villain ~~un~~ Moor again?"

↳ he starts with a question, he saying he's not a villain because he's given Cassio advice and his advice is free and honest.

Then he's talking about Desdemona → it's easy to subdue Desdemona in any kind of matter → she's framed as someone is free and easy going as fruitful, and also he saying that Othello is much attached to her by saying he's "enfettered"

↳ refer to his attachment so he's so chained to Desdemona → and Desdemona could do anything with Othello. He repeats the question "How am I then a villain?" "A Divinity of hell!" he uses paradox  
divine evil

Paradox → contradiction between 2 terms we put to each other → How can divinity be hell?

→ means hell that has the shows of Divine "when devils ~~un~~ now" → he's aware of himself being evil but he gives a show of divine and he's aware of what he doing.

honest fool → refers to Cassio, when he tells story to Desdemona and to repair his fault



"pestilence" → means poison. "striver to do him"  
(Cassio)  
(virtue into pitch)

slips  
good values

dark, bad things

So he's saying that he will be able to change Desdemona's virtues into pitch (something dark).

"And out of her own goodness... all." → he will use Desdemona's goodness like trap.

"All" → reference to Rodrigo, Cassio, Othello...

so out of Desdemona's goodness → Iago's plan he will make use of Desdemona and Cassio in order to ruin Othello.

\* The keywords of this soliloquy: third soliloquy.

1) villain (he repeat it twice)

2) Free and fruitful

3) Dinty of hell

4) unfettered

5) Virtue into pitch

6) net → enmesh them all

he's focussed on Desdemona and how he's going to poison Othello's ears with this pestilence → second step in his plan → so Othello becomes the jealous husband

\* Act 3 → very long act → 4 scenes

↳ 1) Othello anger grows → he begins to suspect Desdemona.



2) Iago plays a big role with the kind of language that he uses to influence Othello's mind (pestilence) → to ruin Desdemona's status

3) Iago + Othello → see Cassio <sup>with Othello</sup> leaving Desdemona's bedroom → where Iago plays much on Othello's mind

4) Iago using questions → like "Did you see and Othello doesn't know what he's talking about that?"

→ in order to insight Othello's mind into jealousy (he uses short sentences/phrases)

5) until Othello is actually become angry and jealous and becomes suspicion on

his wife → so he tests her loyalty

and he uses in his plan "handkerchief"

but this special handkerchief has a story

in the play (Othello) → this handkerchief was

given to Desdemona by Othello because it's

special kind of handkerchief (it's white

embroider with strawberry), → it was given to Othello

by his mother, he tells Desdemona that this

handkerchief was made with magic.

This magic works on wife

→ if a husband gives her this handkerchief

she will love him and her husband will not

love any other woman → he will be loyal to her

but if the wife loses that handkerchief → then he be

affair with any other woman (this is how he convinces

Desdemona that it's special)



→ this handkerchief becomes important in the plot of the play because Desdemona loses this handkerchief → then Emilia takes it and gives it to her husband because Iago asks Emilia to bring it. Iago takes that handkerchief and places it in Cassio's room, then he goes tells Othello he has seen Cassio wipe his beard with the handkerchief → Cassio takes handkerchief and gives it to his lover named "**Bianca**" → he tells her to copy it.

handkerchief → serves as one important clue & called **ocular proof** for Desdemona's unfaithfulness (from version) → so this is a proof that Desdemona is unfaithfulness.

Act 3: Othello is transform from the military leader with a high status in the beginning into a husband who is very jealous and angry → **Iago's plan**. Iago works on Othello's mind until his mind changes and becomes angry and jealous.

**Act 1 scene 1**: at the beginning it's musicians play but then we introduce to Cassio and Iago, Iago convincing Cassio that he'll free so that Cassio can meet with Desdemona (Page 113)

→ "And I'll devise a mean to draw the Moor free" → so he will find a way to get rid of the Moor (Othello) so that Cassio can meet with Desdemona in private.



Page 113 line 40 → we have a dramatic irony because we as audience know about Iago than Cassio knows → this different level of awareness on the part of audience → we are aware of interaction -

Emilia is arranged that meeting  
Scene 2 is very short page 115 :- Othello gives letter to pilot, Othello now is Governor of Cyprus and this is a very good image of Othello as Governor (he is a good man)  
↳ it shows us another side of Othello (the fact that Othello Governor, he takes decisions quickly).

Scene 3 (the longest) → it is the key scene  
↳ This is where Iago is able to convince Othello of his wife's unfaithfulness  
Fact that she cheats on him with Cassio  
Iago uses certain rhetoric → means the way someone expresses himself or words → he uses this in order to poison Othello's ears

↳ The beginning of the scene → Desdemona gives an image of Desdemona being very willing to serve / hug Cassio (Page 116)  
↳ Desdemona promising that she will do her best to serve Cassio's purpose



Page 117 line 22: "Do not doubt . . . away"

↳ In these lines she's promising Cassio that she's going to do her best (she give him assurances of getting his place back as an lieutenant) → she's friends with Cassio and loyal to her friends and she's willing to do whatever takes to help him.

My Lord Shall never rest.

↓ Othello will never rest, she will keep talk to Othello day and night until he finally agrees to his request.

Page 119 → the beginning of Iago's manipulation of Othello.

\* when Iago sees Cassio leaving Desdemona  
↳ he says "Ha, I like not that", he bringing something to Othello's attention to the fact that Cassio is leaving Desdemona's room and Othello doesn't know what he's talking about.  
Then Iago denies saying that ("Nothing, my Lord . . .")  
so Iago is sitting the bait (the net) so that Othello will distrust (destroy himself) → he's end up self-destruction.

"That he would steal away so guiltylike" →

Iago insinuating Othello's mind that Cassio would steal guiltylike → why would Cassio be guiltylike? → he did something wrong once he sees Othello.



So Iago putting those words into Othello's mouth and also on Othello's mind as well then Desdemona comes in and she repeats that she wants to talk to Othello about Cassio. Although Othello doesn't have the time but he still loves her "I will deny thee nothing" and he asks her that this matter can be delayed so leave them because he's busy governing Cyprus.

Page 123: Desdemona says "I am obedient"

When Desdemona and Emilia exit → there is a sudden change of tone with Othello

→ line 100 "Excellent wretch... again" → it shows that Othello change of mood and tone

Perdition → another word for hell and he still loves his wife "I do love thee"

"Chaos" → key word → mess, kind of disturbance of balance → Othello's mind begins to be transformed into an evil person/husband.

\* Iago asks sorts of questions: "When (you) wooed my lady... love?" → he's mentioning

Cassio asking Othello → when Othello used to date Desdemona did Cassio know of that dating? → Othello says yes he did

My lady → reference to Desdemona

Why do you ask?



"I did not ... acquainted with her" → he didn't think that he knew her before  
of yes and went between us very off" → Othello does not know of Iago's intentions.

Iago: "Indeed?" → he doesn't say out right, he asks all these questions, he repeats what Othello said (it's part of strategies) and Othello starts thinking (quick change of dialogue) line 122 → "Think, my Lord?" ... shown" → you are questioning me like there's something hidden in your mind (something that are monsters).

"Thou dost mean something ... - Conceit" → Othello begins to extract the kind of thought that Iago is having and trying to hide in his mind.

\* Page 127 line 150 "why, then, I think Cassio's an honest man". → you are thinking about something and you hiding that but not telling me but Iago pretends that it's out of duty that he doesn't want to tell him what's he thinking about.

Page 129: Iago directs Othello's mind to reputation he talks about jealousy without telling him what has in mind, and this is how Iago explained reputation "Good name in man and woman, dear my Lord. ..." → his famous definition of reputation.



reputation → it's like kind of **Jewel** —  
making Othello thinking about his own reputation  
and he finds out that Desdemona is cheating on him.

**"But he that filches —...indeed,"** →

he who steals my good name Robs  
of that which not enriches him — and  
→ reputation, if anyone who takes  
reputation → it makes him poor indeed.

(means his wealth in reputation not in  
money = the good name is more important  
money because money comes and goes.)

→ later on, he talks about Jealousy, Iago  
directed Othello's mind to Jealousy.

**"Iago's definition of Jealousy"** → he de-  
fines Jealousy is (green eyed monster) He  
does mock, the meat it feeds on  
Iago said about Jealousy → is a mon-  
ster.

Why green eyed? He used to believe that  
there is a certain fluid is green, there  
an open abundance of that boy in  
body → A person becomes Jealous.

→ There's an association between the  
color green, white and being Jealous.

→ This monster eats itself, makes the person eat  
himself.



\* How Can Jealousy makes someone eats him/herself?  
↳ overthinking, start to comparing himself to others  
you start hating that person because you  
think that that person is better than you in  
terms of money, status... → so it creates  
a kind of hatred to others, and it causes  
to you anxiety, overthinking, troubles.

→ Jealousy is a monster that eats you from  
inside.

Cuckold → a husband who's usually make a  
fool of his wife

A person who feels he's cuckold by his  
wife → he become a beast/monster and he  
destroy himself

Page 131 line 220: "for she had eyes, and  
chose me" → he's talking about his wife

"I'll see ... Jealousy" → he says he will  
not doubt his wife unless he sees it (proof)  
he's assuring himself that he will have to  
see before he suspects of his wife

"I am glad of this ... proof"

Tago said "look to your wife, ... not secure"

↳ you have to observe your wife

he's telling Othello that all Venetian women  
are likely to cheat on their husbands

→ "I know our country disposition well"



In Venice they do let

reference to the women

Iago is real psychopath → when he said she did deceive her father → when her father (Brabantio) warns Othello that she did deceive her father and maybe

Othello and Iago against Desdemona

Page 133 line 270 "Ay, there's the point

...repent" → she is talking about Desdemona

he says that he is afraid that

Desdemona starts thinking with her own mind she will fall for match you →

starts comparing Othello to the Venetians and then she will repent / leave Othello.

but Othello still believe that Iago is most honest.

P. 135 → Iago leaves and Othello gives his first soliloquy.

"This was the remembrance from the Moor" Act 5.4

↳ Emilia talking about the handkerchief and the importance of that handkerchief to Desdemona

(Emilia steals it.) → once Desdemona drops it

Emilia steals handkerchief and gives it to her husband (Iago)

Why would Emilia steal the handkerchief if she

believes that Desdemona values that handkerchief? → because she's trying to please her husband



Page 157 (the history of handkerchief) :-

"That's fault. That handkerchief --- match"

↳ Othello talking about history of handkerchief.  
(That's fault → she loses it,

↳ to make Desdemona believe that handkerchief was very special, it was magical.

Othello is talking the connection of women who pass on his handkerchief → 1) magician according to Othello

2) he had given that handkerchief by his mother, and she giving him advice (to keep it → if she loses it her husband will start looking to other

fences → means women or if she gives it as a gift (he's talking about his father's eye).

↳ "my father's eye should hold her loathed"

3) Desdemona

"To lose it or give it away were such <sup>means he will</sup> start hating his wife

Perdition"

↳ strong word that means chaos/hell/mess.

We fall into Perdition that will not be matched.

(when he talks about the magic being in that handkerchief

Handkerchief → strong important symbol → it's a piece of white cloth embroidered with strawberries).

↳ this handkerchief advances the (plot) of the play.

Iago present this symbol.



Why would Shakespeare employed / use that piece of cloth (handkerchief) to make it the centre of the plot?

↳ to tell us more about Othello (the fact that Othello might believe in magic and he is delusional → he can do anything).

Iago make use of Othello as he use ocular proof, but is this proof of trial?

he's blinded by Iago and his tactics.

whiteness → represents Purity (Desdemona's Purity).

(white cloth) with red → virginity

in some traditions on the wedding night → a woman has to produce the white piece of cloth to prove her virginity

it could be reminder of Desdemona's Purity that has been destroyed / ruined by Iago and by her Jealousy's Othello.

\* The handkerchief travels from one person to another in the play → the trip / journey of handkerchief.

① Othello's mother → ② Othello → ③ Desdemona → ④ Emilia → ⑤ Iago → ⑥ Cassio → ⑦ Bianca

when Emilia takes the handkerchief → she's making use of Desdemona's purity, and gives it to Iago who takes advantage of it and makes a scandal.



Act 3 Scene 4 → Ends when Cassio gives the handkercher to his lover (Bianca) but Bianca is afraid that some other woman had given to Cassio → she's suspicious of Cassio and she decides to leave him.

Act 4 Scene 1 → transformation of Othello's character  
Othello is completely transforms into the green-eyed monster  
he starts acting like he's delusional → and this because of Iago's manipulation

at the beginning of act 4 → Iago uses graphic language and imagery in order to insight Othello's jealousy.

9 An unauthorized kiss.

{ Naked, bed → reference to sexuality.

→ he's telling him to imagine that Desdemona is sleeping with Cassio, and then he makes sure that he makes reference to the handkercher.

↳ "Or if I give my wife a handkerchief"

→ the use of these words → Othello repeating these words shows the transformation of Othello being monster  
it shows the <sup>dis</sup>integration, psychological disintegration of Othello, into someone who's unbelievable.

Page 173 → he starts to be delusional and his speech patterns breaks → he doesn't give complete sentences

"what hath he said", "lie" "lie with her" → he's referring to his wife's unfaithfulness.

and because he's so much affected psychologically that he falls into trance → the fact that his wife has  
↓  
cheated on him.



page 183 + 185: he talk about his method  
killing own wife " Ay, let her rot...  
on page 185 → methods/ways of murdering his  
he decided she will not live,

→ [1] chop her into pieces → because she made cut  
[2] poison her → he will poison her because  
doesn't want to ruin her body and her beauty  
[3] hang her.

[4] <sup>Poison</sup> strangle her in her bed → Iago gives him  
idea, he would silence her

→ two men discussing the murder of the woman  
(against the woman) → this is symbol of patri-  
archy society

bed → symbol of the marriage  
Othello moves from the verbal abuse →  
physical abuse → Page 189 → he strikes her  
front of everybody,

LODOVICO → messenger from Venice & he's  
Desdemona's cousin.  
He comes to tell Othello that they needed  
Venice.

Desdemona insists that she appears in court  
in front of everybody. and he calls her Devil  
LODOVICO → surprised

The whole Act 4 → Shows that Othello move  
being rational human being to irrational  
until he becomes monster



Act 4 Scene 1: At the beginning of the scene Iago uses graphic language to whom do Iago and Cassio discuss while Othello is kidding? What does Cassio say about her?

Iago and Cassio talking about Bianca, but apparently Othello is kidding and listening → Part of Iago's plan to provide evidence for Othello that his wife is cheating on him.

Page 179 line 135 - "he importunes him to tell it over".

Page 181 → Cassio was telling how Bianca that is, Bianca haunting him everywhere.

Page 189: "My Lord -- weeps". Lodovico is shocked at the way that Othello treats his wife.

→ This is not a typical Venetian behaviour and that's a hint to the fact that Othello is not Venetian (Othello is an outsider).

Act 4 scene 2: at the beginning Othello asks Emilia about a possible relationship between Desdemona and Cassio, and Emilia says "But then I saw..."

Emilia denies that is any kind of affair between Desdemona and Cassio. Important part of the play.

Emilia's Behaviour → she's steals the handkerchief.

Now in this scene Emilia is a supporter of Desdemona (she telling the truth).



Page 195-197 → Iago becomes cruel to Desdemona and becomes very verbally abusive of Desdemona  
→ he tells her "what art thou?"  
"your wife, my Lord... wife!"  
"Damn thyself" → it's verbal abuse

he asks her to leave and to go to her bedroom  
Page 199: "strumpet" → he calls her wife strumpet → means whore (another word of whore).

Page 207: Rodrigo angry (why he's angry with Iago)  
he gave him money and jewels to deliver to Desdemona and Rodrigo doesn't know <sup>give</sup> whether she's received them or not → he's going to check, if Desdemona received these jewels, he would drop his case against Iago.

How does Iago convince Rodrigo?

→ he tells him that the way of getting to Desdemona is getting rid of Cassio → by kill him / ~~removing~~ <sup>removing</sup> him when with his mistress Bianca.

→ Rodrigo according to Iago → will benefit by getting rid of Cassio, she will have an opportunity to get closer to Desdemona.

→ it shows how Iago is evil to Rodrigo not only to Desdemona

Act 4 scene 3 → Iago commands Desdemona to go to bed. she responds (says "I will, my Lord")  
then she goes to the bedroom with her assistant (Emilia).



In scene 3 → there is some kind of discreet agreement between two women.

→ It's a private scene between Desdemona and Emilia. Two women discussing their situation as women and speaking about men and their own situations.  
\* why is bedroom the setting? → because it's a very private place (enclosed place) → also becomes a place of claustrophobia, kind of psychological problem that shows that people are afraid of close places.

so in Act 4 scene 3 → the setting becomes claustrophobic because in that same bedroom Desdemona had gotten her end (she dies).

At the beginning of the play marks a public place → then ends with private place (dark place).

In scene 3 → Desdemona sings a song (page 213).

"My mother... - dispatch" Desdemona remembers her song that used to be sung by her mother's maid, her mother's maid called **Barbary**.

"Song of willow"

Tree → usually associated with death. So the song of willow → a song about death and Desdemona starts singing this song → she dies while she sings it → for shadowing of her own death.

"Pales line" → religious place / Purky.



both women's views of women / women  
cheat in her husbands (Page 215 line  
"I have heard... world? discuss  
Page 217 → they open up the conversation  
about men cheating women  
Destemona asking "Are there women  
cheating their husband? she doesn't think  
there are women who cheat on their husbands  
and Emilia says → of course there are,  
then asks would you do that?

"By his heavenly light!" → she disregards  
she will not ever cheat on her husband  
There is a difference in the perception of  
Emilia and Destemona → Emilia is more real  
kind of woman who knows a lot about the  
man Destemona → Emilia is more experienced  
Destemona here is confused.

Emilia gives a lengthy speech about the relationship  
between men and their women.

"But I do think it's their husband's fault  
if women cheat / fall. → if a husband  
Husbands vs wives.

Men is separated from women.

- 1) men don't do duties.
- 2) they cheat.
- 3) Jealous → they're women.



oep  
"foreign lap" → men take the love between husbands and wives and fall that love into another woman's lap (cheat on them).

"let husbands know their wives have sense... smell!"  
↳ Both husbands and wives are equal, they have the same senses → there is an equality between men and women in their senses.

Frailty → means weakness,  
"Is it sport?" → Is it entertainment? so men cheat their wives to entertain themselves.  
affection → emotional?

"then let men use us well. Else let them leave."  
men ↓ treat us

The ills we do their ills instruct us so.  
mistakes / faults ↓ men's faults,  
all women in general

→ she calculating her speech → the faults that women falls into is the result of the faults that men fall into and instructs to (feminist speech)  
→ realistic kind of view of men and women.

\* Act 4: 1) Othello slaps Desdemona.

2) Othello begins to see Desdemona through Iago's eyes → success of Iago's plan

3) Fractured syntax

4) Brutality

5) Desdemona's reaction

6) Iago's plan.



Othello's transition → Othello's transition into a green-eyed monster

→ physical abuse  
→ verbal abuse

Act 4 scene 3: 1) Othello sends Desdemona to bed and she listens to him submissively.

2) Everyone leaves the stage except for Desdemona and Emilia.

3) Desdemona doesn't agree insisting on her love for Othello.

4) Desdemona refers to her wedding sheets as her shroud, which is a sheet to cover a dead man's body.

5) Desdemona tells the story of her mother's maid and sings the willow song, a song that the maid sang before she died. Desdemona may have a feel of her fate and accept that fate.

6) Desdemona naively asks Emilia if women may experience infidelity, she asks Emilia if she would ever be infidel.

→ Two females (women) united by abusive husbands.

→ functions of act 4 scene 3: -

1) Heightens pathos for Desdemona and Emilia as two women in patriarchal society.

2) It emphasizes the unfairness and inequality between men and women in a patriarchal society.

3) Creates a sense of increasing claustrophobia as we approach the final act and scenes.



Act 5 scene 1+2 → climax of the play.

- 1) Iago's fulfillment of his plan
- 2) we will consider the setting of the plot / action in Act 5.
- 3) Othello's smothering of Desdemona (Othello's murder)
- 4) why does Othello smother and not strangle or stab Desdemona? → the method of murder
- 5) Othello's contradictory feelings as he does that.
- 6) Othello's speech before and after he smothered Desdemona → 2 important speeches <sup>soliloquy</sup> Monologue - scene 2

Act 5 scene 1 → scene of action

↳ consider a conversation between Iago and Rodenigo in a street in Cyprus.

↳ circularity of the play (Act 1, scene 1).

↳ shows an important development of the play, where Iago and Rodenigo discussing their plan (Rodeneigo has to kill Cassio).

↳ Iago doesn't fulfill his promise of making Desdemona close to Rodenigo.

↳ How would Iago gain from Rodenigo's death? Cassio's?

↳ Iago will benefit if Rodenigo is dead and he also benefit if Cassio is dead.



\* what happens when Cassio and Rodorigo fight?  
(What does Iago do after he wounds Cassio?)  
→ the result of that fight, Cassio is killed  
Iago wounds Cassio but Rodorigo kills Cassio  
so both are got rid of Rodorigo.

→ final scene in bedroom → when Othello approaches  
Desdemona in order to kill her but before  
he does that, Othello had a conversation  
with Emilia and investigates Desdemona's  
unfaithfulness with him → Emilia defends Desdemona  
but then when it's too late Emilia tells  
him the truth behind Iago.

\* Act 5 scene 2 → "It is the cause  
Othello repeats the word/phrase "if" → means  
Jealousy is the cause but he addressing himself  
but also Chaste stars

↳ addressing → like he's talking to  
chaste stars, the stars that are pure

"It" → substituted Desdemona's unfaithfulness (cheating)

\* if the stars are pure unlike unfaithfulness of  
his own life → he will murder her

"Yet" → marks contrast

he will not shed her blood → because he  
doesn't want to scar her beautiful skin  
(whiter skin than snow) and smooth  
as L



monumental alabaster → kind of stone with smoothed surface that is used for making statues, carving  
he's describing the beauty of her skin in terms of her color and its smoothness → that is why he will not shed her blood.

"she must die..." → because she will cheat & betray on more men.

→ Iago tells Othello that she should die so that she will not deceive other men and the same thing Brabantio says → if she has deceived her father she might deceive Othello.

"put out the light" → it's dark and he's holding a candle and he repeats this phrase "if I quench thee"

(I means put out. → he's talking to the candle or light means; you)  
→ he's referring to the candle as flaming minister.

"I can again thy former light restore"  
→ she can again restore the light of the candle if he does put out the light.

→ so in the first part of his soliloquy he's addressing the stars, then he's addressing the candle itself.

"but once put out thy light"  
→ Desdemona's light.



But once put out by light, Thou cunning Pattern  
of Promethean heat . . . . . volume

( means restore

) if he kills her then he doesn't know that  
he can relight / restore her light or  
bring her back to life again.

he uses an allusion to Greek mythology.

so he uses it to say that's impossible to  
restore Desdemona's life after killing her.

\* Prometheus → Greek hero in Greek mythology.

but he's famous of his ability to steal  
light and fire from God and bring it to human  
beings.

Why does he make this allusion?

He's talking about Prometheus heat  
it's impossible to bring her to life again even  
if he had Promethean heat on hand.

"it vital growth again" → he uses a metaphor.  
Othello compares Desdemona as a rose and  
once he plucked this rose → he cannot  
give it vital growth again → it will

wither → means it will die.

once he kills her he cannot appreciate her  
smell, beauty and nothing can bring her to life.

"O balmy breath" → he phrases her breath

↓ smelling her breath almost persuade him to be  
break her sword



"none more... Last" → she said he must to kill her, but he'll love her after he must kill her in a way to preserve her beauty  
"He kisses her so sweet was never so fatal" → she still smell her beauty.

His soliloquy (Othello's) → shows us Othello's internally disturb, conflict, he appreciate her sweetness & beauty.

After Desdemona die → Emilia enters the room hearing all this noise and she shocked, seeing her in last breath then when Emilia asks her who did this? Desdemona in her last word says "she did herself"  
"Nobody else did it. I myself. Farewell." → she doesn't accuse Othello of murdering her.

After she dies, Emilia tells Othello the truth about Iago the fact that Iago was she who steal handkerchiefs and she tells him everything but it's too late → then Othello is full with regret feeling of guilt and he stabs himself (he commits suicide).

His final monologue (important) → he addresses those who are present like Lodovico and he tells him about his life and how they should describe his life and death.

"Soft you... know it" → he addressing those around them  
"I have done the state some service..."

→ if he's done the service (military service) then he should be well-respected and well-regarded by the state



unlucky deeds → 1) him → committing suicide

2) Killing Destemora

"Then must you speak ..... not wisely

↳ she sums up his love, he loves not wisely but too well.  
he affirms her love for Destemora, but still  
affirms the fact that he wasn't wise in his love

"of one not easily Jealous", he affirms the fact  
that he isn't easily jealous

"but being wrought perplexed in the extreme"

↓ means confused

"of one whose hand..... tribe" → he uses metaphor

to describe his unlucky deeds, by killing Destemora  
he's like an indian who is base so he  
compare himself to a base indian who has a Pearl

"threw a Pearl away"

↳ Destemora → and that Pearl is richer

she's more valuable than all his tribe

he feels of regret for what he's done

"Drops tears as fast as the Arabian trees, their

medicinal gum" → he uses metaphor, this Arabian  
tree that have gum on the roots, it's grows in Arabia  
and this gum is used for medicinal purposes.

↳ he talks about the kind of regret, he feels

in terms of dropping tears, the drop is so fast  
as fast these trees grow their medicinal gum

↳ The Tears → like washing away on them  
of the guilt/murder that he has committed



→ Aleppo once, where a malignant and turbaned Turk  
Beat a Venetian and trampled... the kind of head  
means speaking badly of wear/head piece of cloth  
the state that the turks wear

he identify himself not with a Venetian now, he  
identify himself with Turks (malignant) as an  
outsider so in his final monologue he <sup>(1)</sup> accepts himself  
as an outsider to a Venetian society, he <sup>(2)</sup> compare  
himself to the Turkish enemy <sup>(3)</sup> compares the act  
of killing himself to the killing of a Venetian  
enemy <sup>(4)</sup> he ends up by showing a total devotion to  
Destemone.

\* Questions about 1) concept of jealousy  
2) concept of racism.

3) the character (Iago), is it that Othello is  
so vulnerable being affected by Iago's manipulations

\* Page 243 line 122 "my wife ... I have no wife"  
"heavy hour"

Othello says after he smothers  
his wife → he's overwhelmed by  
for killing his wife, emotion.

→ dark hour on his mind, the fact that he has killed  
the one who loves him most.

\* Before he stabs himself → Othello speaks with  
Gratiano "Behold, I have a weapon"

P. 257. ↓ Destemone's uncle, conforming himself as a  
warrior carrying a sword...  
and that sword helped him  
to be little



"Who can control his fate?" → referring to fate means fate vs free will - he admits yet he kills her because of his jealousy.

Othello inquires Iago when he's taken into prison then Othello gives his final monologue at the end by he affirms his senses to the states, then he wants to regain his reputation and respect, he requests fairness when he writes a letter talking about the murder he's committed. Cassio becomes the next governor of Cyprus.

Laundario calling Iago "Spartan dog"

Othello identifies himself as a member of the enemy of the Turks (outsider).

Handkerchief → important to Cassio, Iago, Desdemona and Emilia

(2) Symbolic of loyalty of the wife towards her husband  
(3) important to Iago → make use of his mother's legacy  
his idea of losing handkerchief becomes true so she loses her husband

Every character is balanced by another and love similar/contrasting character

Ex: Desdemona is balanced by her opposite Iago

Desdemona + Emilia → realistic perspective of relationships between men and women.  
Iago + Cassio → Iago kills Emilia but Cassio respects women.  
Othello + Iago → they both kill their wives gentle.  
Iago → violent towards women  
Iago → trust neither trust any body, manipulator