**Othello**

**Act I**

**Scene i**

Roderigo and Iago are arguing because Roderigo thinks Iago knows something that he claims not to know.

1. Iago is offended by Othello’s choice for lieutenant. Name at least 3 faults he finds in Cassio’s.
2. Why are they referring to Othello as “the Moor” and “his Moorship?” Start here noticing other examples of similar references.

3+ Paraphrase the following passage.

Iago

O, sir content you; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I follow him to serve my turn upon him. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We cannot all be masters, nor all masters \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cannot be truly followed. You shall mark \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Many a duteous and knee-crooking knave \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

That, doting on his own obsequious bondage,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Wears out his time, much like his master’s ass\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For naught but provender; and when he’s old,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cashiered. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Whip me such honest knaves! Others there are\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Who, trimmed in forms and visages of duty, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Keep yet their hearts attending on themselves,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

And, throwing but shows of service on their lords,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do well thrive by them; and when they have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Lined their coats, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do themselves homage. These fellows have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Some soul, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

And such a one do I profess myself. For, sir, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It is as sure as you are Roderigo, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Were I the Moor, I would not be Iago. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In following him, I follow but myself. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Heaaven is my judge, not I for love and duty, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

But seeming so, for my peculiar end. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For when my outward action doth demonstrate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The native act and figure of my heart \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In complement extern, ‘tis not long after \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For daws to peck at. I am not what I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. What animal analogy does Iago make about Othello and Desdemona? Answer with a quote.

.

5. Why does Brabantio say Roderigo is not welcome at his home?

6. Besides Roderigo TELLING Brabantio that his daughter has run off with the Moor, how does he know it’s true?

7. In lines 141-156, Iago states that Othello has already gone to the Cyprus wars.

“Another of his fathom they have none

To lead their business; in which regard,

Though I do hate him as I do hell-pains,

Yet, for necessity of present life,

I must show out a flag and sign of love,

Which is indeed but a sign.”

Why is he going too?

8. When everyone exits scene I, what are they going to do?

Scene ii

9. How is Iago already proving to be two-faced?

10. What is Othello referring to when he says “

11. Brabantio has sent 3 different search teams looking for Othello. Iago knows this but challenges Roderigo when they arrive. Why?

12. How does Brabantio think Othello won Desdemona over?

13. How does he insult Othello in the monologue (61-79)?

14. What keeps Othello out of jail for the moment?

Scene 3

15. What is not clear about the Turkish fleet advancing toward Cyprus?

16. What other false information do they receive during the meeting about the Turkish fleet?

17. In lines 76-94, how does Othello explain the fact that he is not a good public speaker?

18. What is Othello’s suggestion for finding out the truth (if he drugged her or used magic on her)?

19. Summarize the story Othello tells of how he and Desdemona fell in love. Lines 127-169. Break it down into 5 or 6 line blocks.

20. What does the Duke mean by his suggestion “… take up this mangled matter at the best. Men do their broken weapons rather use Than their bare hands.”

21. What does Brabantio do when Desdemona says that she DOES love the Moor?

22. Explain the Duke’s remark, “The robbed that smiles steals something from the thief;”

23. Where does Desdemona want to live while Othello goes to war?

24. Since Othello has to leave immediately, who will be in charge of Desdemona? Who will attend on her?

25. Now that Othello and Desdemona are married, what does Roderigo say he is going to do in lines 295-305?

26. What is Iago’s alternate plan for Roderigo?

27. In Iago’s soliloquy, he gives another reason that he hates Othello. What does he suspect about him?

28. Why is it easy to fool Othello according to Iago?

Act II

29. Why does it seem that there will be no war at Cyprus now?

30. Why is Cassio worried?

31. How does Iago prove to be disgusting and rude? How does he view women?

32. In lines 165-175, Iago is hatching a plan. What is it?

33. Summarize Iago’s monologue lines 217-245.

34. What is Roderigo’s “job” when Cassio is on guard duty?

35. Paraphrase:

That Cassio loves her, I do well believe’t; That she loves him, ‘tis apt and of great credit.

The Moor, howbeit that I endure him not, is of a constant, loving, noble nature, And I dare think he’ll prove to Desdemona a most dear husband.

Now I do love her too; not out of absolute lust though peradventure I stand accountant for as great a sin, but partly led to diet my revenge, For that I do suspect the lusty Moor Hath leaped into my seat;

The thought whereof doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw at my inwards; and nothing can or shall content my soul till I am evened with him, wife for wife,

Or failing so, yet that I put the Moor at least into a jealousy so strong that judgment cannot cure.

Which think to do, if this poor trash of Venice, whom I trace for his quick hunting, stand the putting on, I’ll have our Michael Cassio on the hip, abuse him to the Moor in the rank garb (For I fear Cassio with my nightcap too),

Make the Moor thank me, love me and reward me for making him egregiously an ass and practicing upon his peace and quiet even to madness.

‘Tis here, but yet confused: Knavery’s plain face is never seen till used.

Scene 2

36. What does the herald tell everyone?

Scene 3

37. What, in general, are Iago and Cassio saying about Desdemona at the beginning of the scene?

38. Why does Cassio not want to drink?

39. Why does Iago want him to drink?

40. What rumor does Iago start with Montano about Cassio?

41. Why do Montano and Cassio fight?

42. In lines 242-3, what does Othello say to Cassio?

43. What does Iago tell Cassio about reputations when Cassio is concerned that he has ruined his?

44. What advice does Iago give Cassio about getting back into Othello’s favor?

45. How will this help his plan?

46. What two things does he say must happen for it to work (end of Act II)?

Act III Othello Study Questions

Scene 1

47. Why did Shakespeare write the scene with the musicians, the clown and Cassio?

48. What is ironic about Cassio’s statement p. 82 “I never knew a Florentine more kind and honest?”

49. What has been Othello’s response so far since Desdemona has already asked him to reinstate Cassio (lines 44-47)?

Scene 3

50. What does Desdemona mean when she promises Cassio “I’ll watch him tame and talk him out of patience; His bed shall seem a school, his board a shrift; I’ll intermingle everything he does With Cassio’s suit” in lines 23-26?

51. Why does Cassio leave Desdemona when he sees Othello coming?

52. What does Iago say to initiate Othello’s jealousy?

53. Why does Iago ask Othello “Did Michael Cassio, when you wooed my lady, Know of your love?” p. 88

54. List the info. that is adding up to make Othello jealous.

55. Why does Iago say that he doesn’t want to tell Othello his thoughts about Cassio (p. 90-91)

56. Iago says, “But he that filches from me my good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Robs me of that which no enriches him And makes me poor indeed.” Explain.

57. Explain the “green-eyed monster” quote on p. 92.

58. Othello says, “No, Iago; I’ll see before I doubt; when I doubt, prove; And on the proof there is no more but this: Away at once with love or jealousy!” Explain.

59. What piece of evidence does Iago give (p. 93) that shows Desdemona is capable of deceiving?

60. Summarize what Iago says lines 228-238.

61. Why is it more manipulative of Iago to come back after leaving on p. 95.

62. Which of his traits does Othello address in his soliloquy p. 96 that he thinks Desdemona might not like?

63. Why is the napkin (handkerchief) of Desdemona’s so important according to Emilia?

64. What will Iago do with the napkin?

65. What does Othello say to Iago on page 100?

66. Why does Othello threaten Iago on 100-101?

67. What does Iago give Othello for proof that Cassio is cheating with Desdemona?

68. What does he want to happen to Cassio?

69. What does Othello do for Iago at the end of the scene?

Scene 4

70. What is the story of the handkerchief?

71. What does Emilia mean when she says, “’Tis not a year or two shows us a man.

They are all but stomachs, and we all but food;

To eat us hungerly, and when they are full,

They belch us.”

72. Why does Desdemona say that now is not a good time to talk to Othello about Cassio (p. 112-3)?

73. What do we learn about Cassio and Bianca?

Act IV

Scene 1

74. What happens to Othello when he gets really upset?

75. How does Iago “prove” to Othello that Cassio and Desdemona have been together?

76. How is Iago taking a big chance with this method?

77. How does Iago suggest Othello kill Desdemona? What is the reasoning for this method?

78. What does Othello do that Lodovico finds unacceptable?

79. How does Iago explain Othello’s behavior?

80. What does the Duke’s letter command?

Scene 2

81. About what does Othello question Emilia?

82. What names does Othello call Desdemona?

83. Why does Othello throw money at Emilia?

84. Explain what Emilia is thinking on page 135, lines 129-132.

85. Would you react like Desdemona to Othello’s treatment? P. 136 lines 147+ Explain.

86. What does Iago plan for Roderigo to do tonight?

Scene 3

87. What does Othello command Desdemona to do?

88. What does Desdemona want Emilia to do if she dies?

89. Why does D. think something bad is going to happen?

90. Could Desdemona ever cheat on her husband?

91. Under what circumstances could Emilia cheat on hers?

92. Explain why Emilia thinks it is the husband’s fault if the wife cheats (lines 84-103).

Act V

Scene 1

93. Why does Iago say Cassio MUST die?

94. Why does Othello not go to him when he hears Cassio cry for help?

95. Why do Gratiano and Lodovico not go help?

96. For what 2 reasons does Iago kill Roderigo?

97. Who does Iago accuse of having a part in Cassio’s attack?

Scene 2

98. What does Desdemona try to convince Othello to do before he kills her?

99. What news does Emilia bring?

100. Who does Desdemona say killed her?

101. What is the “moment of truth” for Emilia?

102. Why does Gratiano say its best that Brabantio is dead?

103. Who exposes Iago’s corruption?

104. Who killed Emilia?

105. What does Othello ask the men to say about him in their account of the events?

106. Who is the new governor of Cyprus?

107. Who will determine Iago’s punishment?