TOPIC: Othello by William Shakespeare

Aim #11:
How can we utilize close reading skills to improve comprehension of Acts I & II of Othello?

Do Now: Review vocabulary in Google Docs

Homework
Complete quote review (pgs.21-22) - Thursday, October 4th
Othello Act I & II Test - Friday, October 5th
26. entreaty - When Desdemona wanted to be allowed to go to battle with Othello, she made an **entreaty** to the Duke to be allowed to go.

27. epithet - Iago used several base **epithet's** to refer to Othello such as Barbary horse, thick lips and the Moor.

28. facile - There must be a more **facile** way for Iago to get a promotion.

29. forbearance - Iago urges Roderigo to have **forbearance** until Desdemona is his.

30. fulsome - Some might find Othello's **fulsome** tales of his own bravery hard to take.

31. garner - The Duke **garnered** the troops to prepare for war.

32. gravity - Brabantio eventually realized the **gravity** of the Duke's problem.

33. guileless - No longer considering his daughter **guileless**, Brabantio warns Othello about her.

34. hideous - Iago manages to hide his **hideous** soul.

35. homage - Desdemona pays **homage** to the Duke when she bows to him.
Vocabulary Words 51 - 55

51. peevish - Iago loses patience when Roderigo acts in a **peevish** manner.

52. penitent - Cassio is **penitent** after losing his position of lieutenant.

53. perdition - Cassio feels that his life is now in **perdition** all because of wine.

54. pernicious - Iago has a **pernicious** influence on the island spreading hate and destruction.

55. profane (profanity) - Iago says **profane** things about Othello and Desdemona.
Vocabulary 46 - 50

46. obscure - Iago tends to **obscure** the truth when speaking to Othello.

47. odious - Iago's **odious** behavior warrants severe punishment.

48. palpable - Iago's malice is **palpable** to the reader but not to the other characters.

49. paradoxical - "I am not what I am" was Iago's **paradoxical** statement.

50. paragon - Cassio is a **paragon** of military excellence until Iago gets to work.
41. malice - Iago has nothing but **malice** in his heart for Othello.

42. malicious - In other words, Iago is a **malicious** guy.

43. malign - In the play *Othello*, Iago takes every opportunity to **malign** Cassio's character.

44. mitigate - Cassio wants someone to **mitigate** the punishment he received from Othello.

45. mutinous - Cassio was fired for his **mutinous** behavior in the streets of Cyprus.
Othello Vocabulary Review

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once)

Ruffianism – rowdy or tough behavior
Ruminant – To consider for a long time at a slow pace, to ponder.
Sated – Satisfied fully, indulged to excess
Sordid – filthy, foul
Subjugate – To bring under one’s control

1) Although Mary cared deeply for Henry, she had to _________ on his marriage proposal for a while and think about what her life would be like.

2) If the voters learned about the politician’s _________ past, they would not vote for him.

3) When the settlers first landed on the continent, they tried to _________ the natives and turn them into slaves.

4) _________ from the huge family feast, the stuffed couple retired to their bedroom for a midday nap.

5) The mob resorted to sheer _________ and would frequently resort to violent behavior including murder and extortion.
Othello Vocabulary Review

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once)

- **Penitent** – showing or feeling regret for wrongdoing.
- **Perdition** – eternal damnation, utter ruin.
- **Pernicious** – very destructive or harmful, deadly.
- **Profane** – showing contempt toward sacred things
- **Propriety** – correct conduct

1) To keep his followers in line, the religious leader threatened everyone with ____ if they did not follow his rules.

2) The __________ sinner asked for forgiveness during his confessional.

3) Because the comic’s jokes were __________ and offensive to our religion, we left the show early.

4) After Harold wore a clown suit to his cousin’s funeral, we had to question his sense of __________.

5) Although Meredith does not believe her consumption of alcohol has reached a __________ level, I believe she has a drinking __________.
9. bestow - Brabantio did not bestow upon Othello permission to marry his daughter.

16. consecrate - Othello and Desdemona had a secret wedding where they consecrated their marriage.

18. defunct - The trust that Brabantio had for his daughter was defunct after she eloped with Othello without his permission.

19. desolate - Without Desdemona, Brabantio's house seemed desolate.

20. dilatory (dilly dally) - Roderigo was impatient because Iago was dilatory in executing their plan.
How to Write a Text-Analysis Response

Your text-based response of two to three paragraphs should complete the following:

- Identify a central/main idea in the text (1-2 sentences)
  * This sentence should include title, author and genre of the text.
- Identify **ONE** writing strategy (literary element or literary technique or rhetorical device) that develops this central/main idea.
  
  Examples include: characterization, conflict, denotation/ connotation, metaphor, simile, irony, language use, point-of-view, setting, structure, symbolism, theme, tone, etc.
- Provide a brief explanation/definition of the writing strategy you’ve selected.
- Analyze **HOW** the author’s use of this **ONE** writing strategy develops the central idea. (INCLUDE QUOTES FROM THE TEXT!)
  1. Provide textual example #1 (in your own words) to illustrate your chosen writing strategy.
  2. Include a direct quote, which supports example #1, AND include an explanation of how this particular example of your writing strategy develops the author’s central idea.
  3. Provide textual example #2 (in your own words) to illustrate your chosen writing strategy.
  4. Include a direct quote, which supports example #2, AND include an explanation of how this particular example of your writing strategy develops the author’s central idea.
  5. Provide textual example #3 (in your own words) to illustrate your chosen writing strategy.
  6. Include a direct quote, which supports example #3, AND include an explanation of how this particular example of your writing strategy develops the author’s central idea.
- Concluding sentence that explains how your writing strategy enhanced the central idea/overall meaning of the passage.
OTHELLO

Her father loved me; oft invited me;
Still question'd me the story of my life,
From year to year, the battles, sieges, fortunes,
That I have passed.
I ran it through, even from my boyish days,
To the very moment that he bade me tell it;
Wherein I spake of most disastrous chances,
Of moving accidents by flood and field
Of hair-breadth escapes t' the imminent deadly breach,
Of being taken by the insolent foe
And sold to slavery, of my redemption thence
And portance in my travels' history:
Wherein of antres vast and deserts idle,
Rough quarries, rocks and hills whose heads touch heaven
It was my hint to speak,—such was the process;
And of the Cannibals that each other eat,
The Anthropophagi and men whose heads
Do grow beneath their shoulders. This to hear
Would Desdemona seriously incline:
But still the house-affairs would draw her thence:
Which ever as she could with haste dispatch,
She'd come again, and with a greedy ear
Devour up my discourse: which I observing,
Took once a pliant hour, and found good means
To draw from her a prayer of earnest heart
 That I would all my pilgrimage dilate,
Whereof by parcels she had something heard,
But not intently: I did consent,
And often did beguile her of her tears,
When I did speak of some distressful stroke
That my youth suffer'd. My story being done,
She gave me for my pains a world of sighs:
She swore, in faith, 'twas strange, 'twas passing strange,
'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful:
She wish'd she had not heard it, yet she wish'd
That heaven had made her such a man: she thank'd me,
And bade me, if I had a friend that loved her,
I should but teach him how to tell my story,
And that would woo her. Upon this hint I spake:
She loved me for the dangers I had pass'd,
And I loved her that she did pity them.
This only is the witchcraft I have used:
Here comes the lady; let her witness it.

—(William Shakespeare, Othello, Act I, scene iii)
1) Identify the speaker
2) Identify who they are speaking to
3) Highlight words, phrases, context clues
In this excerpt from the play *Othello* by William Shakespeare, the central idea is that love can be found through hardship and makes us appreciate what we have.

One writing strategy that develops the main idea is characterization. Characterization is the description of a character.

One example from this excerpt where characterization is evident is when Othello describes his courageous behavior on the battlefield.

One example states, "From year to year, the battles, sieges, fortunes, that I’ve passed. I ran it through, even from my boyish days" (I.iii. 130-132).

This quote relates to characterization because it shows the hardships and battles Othello has suffered through. These struggles develop Othello into the older man he is today. This leads him to the compassionate arms of Desdemona.

Another example from this excerpt where characterization is used is when Desdemona carefully listens to Othello’s stories.

Another example states, "I did consent and of often did beguile her of her tears, when I did speak of some distressful stroke that my youth suffered" (I.iii. 155-158).

This quote relates to characterization because it shows how much Desdemona cares about Othello. She feels bad for what he has gone through. His suffering made Desdemona appreciate Othello and eventually falls in love with him.

Clearly, the writing strategy characterization helps illustrate the concept that love can be found through hardships and allows us to appreciate what we have. Without the bad moments in life we couldn’t appreciate the good times.
5) advocacy - Roderigo wanted advocacy from Iago in his plan to win the heart of Desdemona.

6) baseness - There is no character in literature with such baseness as Iago.

10) boisterous - Iago and Roderigo were boisterous in the middle of the night and woke up the senator.

13) carnal - Most parents try not to talk about their carnal relationship with one another as it may be awkward. Iago depicts several carnal images while talking to the senator.

15) circumspect - By standing behind Roderigo, Iago was extremely circumspect when waking up the senator.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Direct or Indirect</th>
<th>Location in play</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Othello</td>
<td>Moor, General in the Venetian army, Muslim, Eloped with Desdemona</td>
<td>Indirect</td>
<td>Act I, scene i Iago and Roderigo are discussing Othello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iago</td>
<td>Deceiving Ensign, Treacherous, Upset he did not get the position of lieutenant</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Act I, scene i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brabantio</td>
<td>Controlling, Upset that his daughter Desdemona has defied him</td>
<td>Direct and Indirect</td>
<td>Act I, scene i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roderigo</td>
<td>Dim witted, Love struck, Gullible</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Act I, scene i</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directions: Below are 69 vocabulary words with definitions. Your task is to create a sentence using context clues for each vocabulary word. You will be tested on numbers 1-35 and then on all 69 words.

1. Advocacy: AD vah chu see  Definition: Support of an idea or cause. (n)
   Sentence: The lawyer was a strong advocate for his client because he knew that he was innocent.

2. Affinity: uh FIN uh tee  Definition: A likeness, a natural relationship, a kinship. (n)
   Sentence: He had an affinity for the woman he met and asked her out on a date immediately.

3. Agile: AJ uhli  Definition: The ability to move quickly with suppleness and grace. (adj)
   Sentence: The track and field competitor made an agile leap, allowing him to win the gold medal.

4. Alacrity: uh LAK raa tee  Definition: Prompt or cheerful response. (n)
   Sentence: The students were greeted with alacrity by the teacher who had a big smile on her face.

5. Amiable: A mee uh bul  Definition: Friendly, sociable, and congenial. (adj)
   Sentence: The woman gave an amiable greeting by smiling and waving.

6. Baseness: BASE ness  Definition: The quality of lacking higher values. (n)
   Sentence: The gang leader watched his members attack the old woman, and felt no guilt because of his baseness.

7. Beguile: buh GUYL Definition: To deceive, to mislead, and to persuade with charm. (v)
   Sentence: The car salesman tried to beguile the customer with an offer of free gas for a year.
The boy who was raised by wolves displayed bestial behavior.

The prime minister will bestow medals to the brave soldiers who rescued their comrades.

The boisterous storm ripped through our town wrecking everything in sight.

Some say Donald Trump is too bombastic and makes outrageous claims during his speeches.

She often spoke in a candid manner, revealing too much information about her children who often felt embarrassed.

Minors were not allowed in the art gallery as many of the pieces contained carnal nudity.

When the police chief discovers his officers let the criminal escape, he is sure to castigate them.

In this growing age of technology, one must circumspect the information they provide on the internet.
The Pope consecrated the cross by blessing it.

Martha is a cynical woman who does not trust many people.

Floppy disks are a defunct piece of technology that are no longer used.

The Sahara Desert is a desolate place, it contains no traces of life.

The student walked to class in a dilatory manner because he was apprehensive about taking the test.

We used a background check to discern which candidate was more qualified for the job.

There was discord among the committee members on how the extra money should be spent.

My daughter spends money recklessly, and she receives an allowance at my discretion.
24. **Edifying** (adj) Definition: Instructing or improving spiritually or morally.  
Sentence: The teacher hoped her speech about citizenship would edify her students and encourage them to contribute to their community.

25. **Enmesh** (v) Definition: To entangle.  
Sentence: The fly became enmeshed within the spiders web and could not escape.

26. **Entreaty** (n) Definition: A plea, an earnest request.  
Sentence: The homeless man made an entreaty to the people walking by to donate money.

27. **Epithet** (n) Definition: A term or phrase describing or characterizing.  
Sentence: The epithet "Curley" is used to describe the man with curley hair.

28. **Facile** (adj) Definition: Easily achieved with little difficulty.  
Sentence: The adults didn't understand Pokemon-Go but the teenagers thought it was facile and easily played.

29. **Forbearance** (n) Definition: Patience, lenience.  
Sentence: The police officer showed forbearance when he let the young vandals off with a warning.

30. **Fulsome** (adj) Definition: Excess to the point of disgust, extreme lavishness.  
Sentence: The table heaped with fulsome amounts of greasy food.

31. **Garner** (v) Definition: To gather together, to store up.  
Sentence: If the comedian wants to garner more laughs during her routine, she needs to write funnier jokes.

32. **Gravity** (n) Definition: Seriousness, importance.  
Sentence: The soldiers realized the gravity of the battle when they saw from a distance they were outnumbered 2:1.
The guileless old woman trusted everyone and gave her life savings to the scam artist.

The scary creature made a hideous croaking sound, terrifying us all.

To show homage, the poor people brought gifts to the temple.

The imperious woman sent her food back five times and complained to the manager that it was undercooked.

The conversation between the man and his ex-girlfriend was laconic as it only lasted a few seconds.

Other assured the Duke and council that he was not a lecher when requesting to take Desdemona to Cyprus with him.

Hot weather makes me so extremely lethargic and all I want to do is sit by the pool.

John’s malice towards his ex-wife led him to vandalize her car.
malicious - The malicious villain poisoned the water supply to get everyone sick.
malign - The politician had paid men in the opposing party to malign their own leader.
mitigate - By pleading guilty and saving the court time and resources, the man's punishment was mitigated.
mutinous - The mutinous farmers rebelled against their government because of how high their taxes were.
obscure - The obscure writer was not known in the literary community.
The movie screen was obscured by the man's large head who was sitting in front of me.
odious - The athlete was arrested for participating in the odious sport of dog fighting.
palpable - Because the bank was being robbed, the sense of fear for the customers was palpable.
pardoxical - Many consider flu shots to be paradoxical because you receive a weakened strain of the virus to prevent you from becoming more sick.
To Othello, Desdemona is a paragon of beauty.

The clingy toddler became peevish every time his mother walked out of the room.

The penitent man attended church every day begging for forgiveness.

To keep his followers in line, the religious leader threatened everyone with perdition if they did not follow his rules.

My neighbor hates me and is always spreading pernicious lies about me.

After the call on the field was overturned, the coach began to yell out several profane words.

After Tom wore a clown suit to his friend's funeral, we had to question his sense of propriety.

The ruffian was frequently visited by the police and other members of the law enforcement community.

Before I make any major decision, I need to ruminate on all of the facts.
If the citizens discovered the politician's sordid past, they would probably not vote for him.

The prince was able to usurp power after he murdered the king.

Sated from the huge family feast, I went upstairs to take a nap.

In order to be a dictator you must first subjugate your people by any means necessary.

We had such a surfeit of food during the holidays, that we gave a large portion of it to the family next door.

The crooked politician paid a newspaper editor to traduce his rivals.

The prince was able to usurp power after he murdered the king.

I was vehement about monitoring the actions of the police as they sought my husband's killer.

Johnny Depp is known for eccentric performances that burst with verve and energy.
Many considered Mozart to be a virtuoso from a very young age.

Jim's wanton disregard for others was obvious when he drove home drunk.

The city decided a police presence was warranted at this year's festival because of the huge fight that occurred at last year's event.
Othello Character Map
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC: Characters in Othello</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Othello</strong>&lt;br&gt;The play’s protagonist and hero, Othello is a Muslim Moor and General of the armies of Venice. He is powerful and respected by all of those around him. However, he is a target because of his race.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desdemona</strong>&lt;br&gt;The daughter of Barbantio who is secretly married to Othello before the play begins. She is a determined woman who defends her marriage. (white/interracial relationship)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Iago</strong>&lt;br&gt;The antagonist and villain of the play. Iago desires Othello’s demise because he has been passed over for the position of Lieutenant. He is manipulative and destructive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michael Cassio</strong>&lt;br&gt;Othello’s Lieutenant. A young and inexperienced soldier who is resented by Iago. He is truly devoted to Othello and is promoted to the position of Othello’s Lieutenant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emilia</strong>&lt;br&gt;Iago’s wife and Desdemona’s attendant. She is a cynical woman who does not trust her husband.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roderigo</strong>&lt;br&gt;A jealous suitor of Desdemona. Young, rich, and foolish, Roderigo is convinced that if he gives Iago all of his money, Iago will help him win Desdemona’s hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bianca</strong>&lt;br&gt;An (alleged) prostitute in Cyprus. Her favorite customer is Cassio, who teases her with promises of marriage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brabanzio</strong>&lt;br&gt;Desdemona’s father and an important Venetian senator. He is friends with Othello but feel betrayed when the general marries his daughter in secret.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duke of Venice</strong>&lt;br&gt;The official authority in Venice. The Duke has great respect for Othello as a public and military servant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Montano</strong>&lt;br&gt;The governor of Cyprus before Othello.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lodovico</strong>&lt;br&gt;A relative of Brabanzio, he acts as a messenger from Venice to Cyprus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graziano</strong>&lt;br&gt;A relative of Brabanzio, he accompanies Lodovico to Cyprus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clown</strong>&lt;br&gt;Othello’s servant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOPIC: Act I scene i Homework Questions

1. Why, according to what he tells Roderigo, does Iago hate Othello (referred to only as "him")? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Iago hates Othello because when choosing a new lieutenant, Othello passed Iago over for a promotion in favor of Michael Cassio. Iago becomes more frustrated because Cassio has no real world experience while Iago has been in several battles. "And, by faith of man, I know my price, I am worth no worse a place. But he, as loving his own pride and purposes, evades them this a bombast circumstance..." (I.i 11-14).

2. Roderigo tells Iago to stop following Othello is he is so dissatisfied with his actions. Why does Iago claim to want to keep working with him?

Iago wants to keep working with Othello to gain his trust and eventually stab him in the back to get his revenge. When he is not with Othello, he speaks badly of him (as seen with Roderigo and Brabantio). However, when with him he acts like his friend and even warns him that Barbantio and Roderigo were speaking badly about him. "I follow him to serve my turn upon him."

3. Who is Brabantio, and why do Iago and Roderigo awaken him in the middle of the night? Why does Iago slip off so quickly once Brabantio comes down?

Brabantio is Desdemona’s father and a Venetian senator. Iago and Roderigo awaken Brabantio to inform him that his daughter Desdemona has eloped with Othello. This upsets Brabantio. Even though he respects Othello, he is upset that his daughter married a moor and did so without his permission. Iago slips off before Brabantio comes down so no one knows (except Roderigo) that Iago was speaking against Othello.

4. What is Roderigo’s relationship to Brabantio and his daughter, Desdemona (I.i 94-100)?

Roderigo is in love with Desdemona and tried to court her several times but is unsuccessful. Brabantio does not approve of him for some reason and is frustrated and upset when he identifies himself outside of his window.

5. What is Brabantio’s reaction to Othello’s marriage to Desdemona (I.i 167 - 172)?

When Brabantio discovers that Othello and Desdemona have eloped, he becomes angry and upset. Not only did Othello not ask for permission to marry Desdemona, but he is a moor, and interracial relationships were looked down upon at that time.

6. Why does Roderigo hate Othello?

Roderigo hates Othello because he is in love with Desdemona. Unfortunately, Desdemona married Othello which means he cannot be with her.

7. Why should Roderigo pay particular attention to Iago’s ideas and motives?

Roderigo should pay particular attention to Iago’s ideas and motives because he is giving him money. Also, Iago clearly cannot be trusted and Roderigo should be wary of working with him. He is following him blindly because he is so in love with Desdemona.

8. There are several negative words/phrases and racial slurs aimed at Othello. Find 3 examples and explain why they are offensive.

Othello is referred to as an old black ram, a Barbary horse, and refers to him as having “thick lips.” These are all negative because they are demeaning/stereotypical to Othello and shows that several characters in the play think “less” of him. "Because we come to do you service and you think we are ruffians, you’ll have your daughter covered with a Barbary horse" (I.i 123-125).
9. How does Iago lie to Othello at the beginning of the scene?

Iago lies to Othello by telling him that he should kill Roderigo for speaking out against him but in actuality, Iago is secretly working with Roderigo to bring down Othello. He also warns Othello that Brabantio will be angry with him, even though Iago was the one who informed Brabantio about Othello’s marriage to Desdemona. “Nay, but he prated and spoke such scurvy and provoking terms against your honor, that with the little godliness I have I did full hard forbear him” (I.i.ii 8-12).

10. What do you learn about Othello’s background in this scene? Why is this important concerning his marriage to Desdemona?

We learn that Othello comes from a royal family. He is very modest about this and does not like to brag. This is important concerning his marriage to Desdemona because her father assumes that he is not good enough for her as he is simply a Moor. However, since he comes from royalty Brabantio is more likely to accept him. “’Tis yet to know I fetch my life and being from men from royal siege, and my demerits may speak unbonneted to as proud a fortune as this that I have reached” (I.ii 22-27).

11. Why does the Duke send for Othello? What danger is Cyprus facing?

The Duke sends for Othello because he needs to speak to him immediately regarding Cyprus. Cyprus may be attacked by the Turks. To prevent this from happening, the Duke sends Othello to Cyprus to defend it. “The Duke does greet you, general, and he requires your post-haste appearance, even on this instant” (I.ii 42-44).

12. How does Othello respond to the irritation of Brabantio’s attacks? Why is he not arrested as Brabantio has ordered?

When Othello is confronted by Brabantio he tells him that he does not want to fight because he respects him as a man and his position as a senator. Othello is not arrested because he summoned by the Duke to travel to Cyprus to defend it against the Turks.
13. Describe the relationship between Desdemona and Othello? Who first initiated the idea of love?

The relationship between Desdemona and Othello started when Barbantio used to invite Othello into his home to hear stories of war. Desdemona became infatuated with these stories, how wonderful Othello's life was, and fell in love with him first. "She loved me for the dangers I had passed, and I loved her that she did pity them" (I.iii. 168 - 169).

14. How does Desdemona respond when Brabantio confronts her? Do you think she should have taken a different approach to the problem?

Desdemona responds by explaining that she is torn between her father and her husband. Although her father gave her life and education, Othello is now her husband and must side with him, similar to the way her own mother sided with Brabantio. "To you I am bound for life and education...how I respect you. But here's my husband. And so much duty as my mother showed to you, preferring you before her father, so much I challenge that I may profess due to the Moor my lord" (I.iii. 182 - 189).

15. How does Desdemona argue that she should be allowed to accompany her husband to Cyprus? What assurance does Othello offer the Council that he will take care of his business, even if his wife is with him?

Desdemona argues that when she fell in love with Othello, she threw away her old life and is now a part of him. As such, she is now part of a soldier and should accompany him to battle. "I saw Othello's visage in his mind. And to his honors and his valiant parts did I my soul and fortunes consecrate" (I.iii. 252 - 254). Othello assures the council that he does not want her with him for sex and that if he neglects his duties he will retire (use his helmet as a frying pan) "Let housewives make a skillet of my helm and all indign and base adversities make head against my estimation" (I.iii 272 - 274).

16. Reread Iago's lines, 361 - 375. How is his "parable to the garden" symbolic of his character?

Iago’s "parable to the garden" is symbolic of his character by making the comparison that if we didn’t think ahead, our actions may get the better of us. He tells Roderigo that we choose who we are and who we want to become. "Tis in ourselves that we are thus or thus. Our bodies are our gardens, to the which our wills are gardeners" (I.iii 319 - 320).

17. What is the "real reason" Iago hates Othello? (lines 429 - 434)

The "real reason" Iago hates Othello is that he heard a rumor that the moor had sex with his wife Emilia. Although he dismisses this as a rumor, he uses this reason to hate Othello. "And it is thought abroad that 'twixt my sheets he's done my office. I know not if't be true..." (I.iii 378 - 380).

18. Why is Cassio a particularly handy scapegoat for Iago’s plot?

Cassio is a particularly handy scapegoat for Iago’s plot because he is younger than Othello and handsome. He is a smooth talker and people expect him to be a seducer of women. "He hath a person and a smooth dispose to be suspected, framed to make women false" (I.iii 388 - 389).
19. What is the situation at sea as Act II begins? What has happened to the Turkish fleet?
The situation at sea as Act II begins is that the weather is rough and stormy. As a result, the Turkish fleet has been destroyed and they will not be a battle. Many of the people at Cyprus are concerned for Othello and the other members traveling from Venice.

20. Which ship from Venice arrives first? Which ship arrives second? Why is it surprising that it arrives before Othello’s?
The first ship that arrives is Michael Cassio. The second ship to arrive is Iago who is bringing Desdemona, Emilia and Roderigo. Finally, Othello’s ship is the last to arrive due to the stormy seas. It is surprising that Othello arrived last because he was the first to leave and an experienced sailor/navigator who should have been the first to arrive.

21. Who is Emilia? What does the discussion between Desdemona and Emilia tell us about their relationship?
Emilia is Iago’s wife and Desdemona’s attendant. The discussion between Desdemona and Emilia teaches us that Emilia is willing to take abuse from her husband Iago and not stand up for herself. Desdemona stands up for Emilia and speaks back to Iago (not common for women during that time). This shows us that Desdemona is a strong woman who stands up for herself.

22. Why does Iago want Roderigo to anger Cassio? What is the purpose of Iago’s plan?
Iago wants Roderigo to anger Michael Cassio so that he will get into trouble with Othello and the people of Cyprus and lose his position of lieutenant. Iago tells Roderigo to anger Cassio because he is in love with Desdemona. Roderigo doesn’t know any better and is willing to blindly follow Iago’s plan. Ultimately, Iago hopes that this plan will lead to him becoming the lieutenant.

23. What keeps Roderigo from seeing the truth instead of Iago’s lies?
Roderigo is unable to see the truth because he is gullible and blinded by his love for Desdemona. Iago promises Roderigo that the two will be together eventually if he follows his plan.
TOPIC: Act II scene iii Homework Questions

24. Why does Iago want Cassio to drink more wine? What is the outcome of Cassio’s drinking?
Iago wants Cassio to drink more wine so that he will become drunk and wreckless. Cassio turns down the invitation to drink because he takes his job very seriously and is not much of a drinker saying, "I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking" (II.iii.34-35). The outcome of Cassio’s drinking is that he gets into a fight with Roderigo. Montano attempts to break up the fight and Cassio responds by stabbing him.

25. What lie does Iago tell Montano about Cassio?
Iago tells Montano that although Cassio is a good leader he is concerned because he drinks a lot which may clout his judgment as a lieutenant stating, "I fear the trust Othello puts him in, on some odd time of his infirmary, will shake the island" (II.iii.130-132). Clearly, Iago’s plan is beginning to occur.

26. Why does Othello strip Cassio of his rank?
Othello strips Michael Cassio of his rank because he gets drunk, gets into a fight with Roderigo and stabs Montano when he tries to break up the argument between the two men. Othello is especially upset as it is a celebration and he has yet to consummate his wedding vows. Othello says, "Cassio, I love thee, but nevermore be officer of mine" (II.iii.264-265).

27. Why does Iago want Cassio to ask Desdemona for help in restoring Othello’s faith in Cassio?
Iago wants Cassio to ask Desdemona for help by bringing all of the characters together whom he intends to use to get his revenge on Othello. He wants to make it appear that Desdemona has a "soft spot" for Cassio so he can later form a connection between the two characters implying they have a relationship with each other. "Confess yourself freely to her, importune her help to put you in your place again. She is of so free, so kind, so apt, so blessed a disposition, she holds it a vice in her goodness not to do more than she is requested" (II.iii 301 - 304).

28. How does Iago get back in Othello’s good graces?
Iago gets back in Othello’s good graces by telling him what has happened between Cassio and Montano but is reluctant to do so, illustrating that he is a loyal friend who does not want to betray his comrade. "I know, Iago, thy honesty and love dth mince this matter, making it light to Cassio" (II.iii 234 - 235).

29. What is Roderigo’s complaint, and how does Iago answer it?
Roderigo complains that he has spent most of his money in pursuit of Desdemona and wishes to return to Venice. Iago persuades him to stay by encouraging him to be patient and he will feel better once he gets some rest. "How poor are they that have not patience...Retire thee, go where thou are billeted" (II.iii 349 & 359).
Attachments

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