TOPIC: Othello by William Shakespeare

**Aim #17:**
How can we utilize close reading skills to improve comprehension of Act IV scene i of Othello?

**Do Now:** Complete vocabulary sheet

**Homework**
Read Act IV scene i and complete study guide questions - Due Thursday 10/18
***Must submit to TIN by 8:07am***
Prepare for vocabulary exam on words 16-30 - Monday, 10/24
Lost in Yonkers TDR Assessment - Wednesday, 10/24
Othello Vocabulary Review

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

advocacy – support of an idea or cause
affinity – a likeness, a natural relationship, a friendship
agile – the ability to move quickly with suppleness and grace
alacrity – a cheerful response
beguile – to trick, to mislead, and to persuade with charm
bestial – brutal without reason, having the qualities of a savage
bestow – to grant or to give

1) I have an ____________ for chocolate ice cream and will eat it as often as I can.

2) The track and field runner was very ____________ and was able to easily win the race.

3) The man was known for his ____________ for animals rights and believe that all animals had the same rights as people.

4) As the students walked into the classroom, the teacher greeted them with ____________, saying “hello” in a cheerful voice.

5) The car salesman attempted to ____________ the customer into buying a car with the offer of free gas for a year.

6) The ____________ behavior of the man led to his arrest; he would frequently get into fights and cause trouble.

7) The king ____________ (ed) upon his daughter the title of princess.
Othello Vocabulary Review

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once). Highlight or underline the context clues within each sentence.

**discern** – to differentiate or separate two different things.

**enmesh** – to entangle

**entreaty** – a plea or earnest request

**facile** – something that can be achieved easily

1) The fly became ____________ (red) in the spiders web. Try as he might, he could not ____________ escape and was eventually eaten. 😊

2) Because Bradley wore ____________ sunglasses, it was difficult to discern if his eyes were ____________ red.

3) Mr. Clark will often make an ____________ entreaty for his students to arrive to class on ____________ time. Some of them listen better than others.

4) While Mr. Marquino found playing Fortnite difficult, the students thought it was ____________ and achieved a “Victory Royale.”
Othello Vocabulary Review

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

Ruminant – to think about for a long time at a slow pace, to ponder.
Subjugate – To bring under one’s control.
Usurp – To take control or possession without right.
Virtuoso – An accomplished musician; one skilled in the fine arts of music.

1) On New Year’s Eve, many people _______________ about their lives thinking about all they hope to accomplish during the upcoming year.

2) Since Lisa could not attend the dance, Marie had plans to _______________ the title of homecoming queen.

3) Because Ray was blind, he tried even harder to prove everyone wrong by becoming a _______________ of the piano.

4) Because the military leader had hundreds of thousands of troops at his command, it was very easy for him to _______________ the townspeople and steal their valuables.
Text-Analysis Response

Your Task: Closely read the text provided and write a well-developed, text-based response of three paragraphs. In your response, identify a central idea in the text and analyze how the author’s use of one writing strategy develops this central idea. Use strong and thorough evidence from the text to support your analysis. Do not simply summarize the text. You may use the margins to take notes as you read and scrap paper to plan your response. Write your responses provided in your writing booklet.

Guidelines:

Be sure to:

- Identify a central idea in the text
- Analyze how the author’s use of one writing strategy develops this central idea. Examples include: characterization, conflict, setting, metaphor, simile, irony, symbolism, theme, tone, etc.
- Use strong and thorough evidence from the text to support your analysis
- Organize your ideas in a cohesive and coherent manner
- Maintain a formal style of writing
- Follow the conventions of standard written English
TEXT

IAGO
Please don’t make me do that, sir. I have to obey all your orders, but surely I’m not obligated to reveal my deepest thoughts—even slaves aren’t expected to do that. You want me to say what I’m thinking? What if my thoughts are disgusting and wrong? Even good people think horrible things sometimes. Who is so pure that they never think a bad thought?

OTHELLO
You’re not being a good friend, Iago, if you even think your friend has been wronged and you don’t tell him about it.

IAGO
Please don’t ask me to tell you. I might be completely wrong. I have a bad tendency to be suspicious of people and to look too closely into what they’re doing. Often I imagine crimes that aren’t really there. You would be wise to ignore my weak guesses and imaginary suspicions, and don’t worry yourself about the meaningless things I’ve noticed. For me to tell you my thoughts would only destroy your peace of mind, and it wouldn’t be wise, honest, or responsible for me to tell them.

OTHELLO
What are you talking about?

IAGO
A good reputation is the most valuable thing we have—men and women alike. If you steal my money, you’re just stealing trash. It’s something, it’s nothing: it’s yours, it’s mine, and it’ll belong to thousands more. But if you steal my reputation, you’re robbing me of something that doesn’t make you richer, but makes me much poorer.

OTHELLO
I’m going to find out what you’re thinking.

IAGO
You can’t find that out, even if you held my heart in your hand you couldn’t make me tell you. And as long my heart’s inside my body, you never will.

OTHELLO
What?
IAGO
Beware of jealousy, my lord! It’s a green-eyed monster that makes fun of the victims it devours. The man who knows his wife is cheating on him is happy, because at least he isn’t friends with the man she’s sleeping with. But think of the unhappiness of a man who worships his wife, yet doubts her faithfulness. He suspects her, but still loves her.

OTHELLO
Oh, what misery!

IAGO
The person who’s poor and contented is rich enough. But infinite riches are nothing to someone who’s always afraid he’ll be poor. God, help us not be jealous!

OTHELLO
Why are you telling me this? Do you think I would live a life of jealousy, tormented by new suspicions every hour? No. If there’s any doubt, there is no doubt. I might as well be a goat if I ever let myself become obsessed with the kind of suspicions you’re implying. If you say my wife is beautiful, eats well, loves good company, speaks freely, sings, plays music, and dances well, you’re not making me jealous. When a woman is virtuous, talents like these just make her better. And I’m not going to start feeling inferior. She had her eyes wide open when she chose me. No, Iago, I’ll have to see some real evidence before I start suspecting her of anything bad, and when I suspect her, I’ll look for proof, and if there’s proof, that’s when I’ll let go of my love and my jealousy.

--(William Shakespeare, Othello, Act III, scene iii)
How to identify the central idea?

1) What is the subject of the passage?

2) How does the subject progress/change from the beginning to the end?

3) What is the moral message//lesson about the subject based on this projection?
**Othello Act III: Sequencing the Events**

1. Type the following situations/events in order of sequence
2. Include a significant quotation that corresponds to each event. Be sure to cite Act, scene, and line #’s.
3. You MUST be neat and organized.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Quotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emilia gives Desdemona's handkerchief to Iago, who says he will leave it in Cassio's lodgings.</td>
<td>Cassio arranges for musicians to serenade Othello and Desdemona; but it only annoyed them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desdemona tells Cassio she will do everything in her power to convince Othello to reinstate him.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iago informs Cassio that he will distract Othello so that his conversation with Desdemona will be uninterrupted.</td>
<td>Desdemona mentions to Emilia that she thinks her husband is not himself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desdemona pleads with Othello to reinstate Cassio, and he agrees.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iago steers Othello's thoughts to jealousy about Desdemona's relationship with Cassio.</td>
<td>Iago tells Othello that Cassio has spoken of his love for Desdemona in his sleep and has used her handkerchief to wipe his beard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Othello is seen discharging his duties as Governor of Cyprus and inspecting fortifications.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Othello returns nearly convinced of Desdemona's unfaithfulness.</td>
<td>Emilia picks up the handkerchief that Desdemona has dropped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Othello believes Iago and tells him to murder Cassio and that he will murder Desdemona.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Othello Vocabulary Review

Use the following vocabulary words to complete each sentence: (each word is used only once) Highlight or underlining context clues.

**Vehement** – forcefully expressing emotion or conviction

**Verve** – energy or enthusiasm

**Virtuoso** – one skilled in fine arts or an accomplished musician

**Wanton** – immoral or lewd

**Warranted** - justified

1) The judge sentenced the teenage boy to two hundred hours of community service for his acts of vandalism.

2) The singer danced across the stage with endless ___________ and vitality that would have tired out any normal person.

3) Jack’s enemies on the school board met his proposal with ___________ opposition.

4) When the identity of the awe-inspiring ___________ was revealed, everyone was shocked to learn it was our neighbor Jim who had played the clarinet throughout the banquet.

5) In the case of the serial killer, the death penalty is ___________ as a punishment.
Imagery is language that appeals to the senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch). Throughout Othello, Shakespeare uses patterns of imagery, or repeated images, that reflect the characters, mood, and themes of the play.

Directions: Re-read the following lines from the play and identify the pattern or patterns of imagery in each passage. Then, answer the questions that follow each quotation.

1. Act II, scene i, lines 183-184 (“With as little a whirl as this will I / Ensnare as great a fly as Cassio.”)
   - What does this imagery reveal about Iago’s character?
   - What portion of the passage creates an image/ an example of imagery?

2. Act II, scene i, lines 246-247 (“Her eye must be fed. And what delight shall she have to look on the devil?”)
   - To whom does this passage refer?
   - Who is being referred to as the devil in this passage?

3. Act II, scene i, lines 318-319 (“The thought whereof / Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw my inwards...”)
   - What two things are being directly compared here?
   - What image is being created?

4. Act II, scene iii, lines 31-32 (“He’ll be full of quiere and offense / As my young mistress’ dog.”)
   - To which character is he referring and what is that character being compared to?

5. Act III, scene iii, lines 500-502 (“O thou invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee devil.”)
   - What image is conveyed?
Appearance vs. reality - Deception
  How Iago presents himself
Prejudice - hatred towards others
  based on race, religion, sex, culture
Betrayal/treachery
  Going behind a person's back
Love - care for another
  Othello ♡ Desdemona
Vocabulary

56. propriety - When he got drunk on guard duty, Cassio lost his sense of **propriety**.

57. ruffianism - Instead, he engaged in **ruffianism** in the streets of Cyprus.

58. ruminate - Cassio **ruminated** on how he lost his reputation after the street brawl.

59. sated - Iago predicted that Desdemona would soon be **sated** with Othello's body.

60. sordid - Sentence number 59, was a **sordid** one.

61. subjugate - Cassio was **subjugated** to the effects of the wine.

62. surfeited - Cassio's taste for wine was more than **surfeited** by Iago's supply.

63. traducer - Always a **traducer**, Iago manages to get away with it every time.

64. usurp - Iago wants Cassio to be drunk so he can **usurp** his rank of lieutenant.

65. vehement - Cassio is **vehement** in his refusal to beg Othello to be reinstated.
Name: 

English 11R

Famous Quotes: Othello Acts I & II Review

Identify the character that said the following quotes:

Michael Cassio

Speaking to Iago

Iago

"Because we come to do you service, and you think we are ruffians, you'll have your daughter covered with a Barbary horse; you'll have your nephews neig to you, you'll have coursers for cousins and jennets for germans." Brabantio

Othello

"If you do find me foul in her report, the trust, the office, I do hold of you not only take away, but let your sentence even fall upon my life."

The Duke, senators, Brabantio

Brabantio

" Fathers, from hence trust not your daughters minds by what you see them act..." Duke, senators, (Audience)

Othello

"...I love thee; But never more be officer of mine."

Cassio

Iago

"Our general's wife is now the general... confess yourself freely to her."

Cassio

Iago

"I will ask him for my place again; he shall tell me I am a drunkard!"

Othello

"Keep up your bright swords, for the dew will rust them. Good signoir, you shall more command with years than with your weapons."

Brabantio

Turn over
Iago: "Reputation is an idle and most false imposition; oft got without merit, and lost without deserving: you have lost no reputation at all, unless you repute yourself such a loser." Cassio

Othello: "I do confess the vices of my blood, So justly to your grave ears I'll present. How I did thrive in this fair lady's love, And she in mine." Duke, senate, Brabantio

Brabantio: "...to fall in love with what she feared to look on? ... I therefore vouch again that with some mixtures powerful o'er the blood or with some dram conjured to this effect he wrought upon her."

The Duke

Othello: "Come, Desdemona: 'tis the soldiers' life, To have their balmy slumbers waked with strife." Desdemona

Roderigo: "'Tis silliness to live when to live is torment; and then have we a prescription to die when death is our physician." Cassio: "Reputation, reputation, reputation, I have lost my reputation." Iago

Othello: "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." Brabantio, Duke and senate

Othello: "Speak, who began this? On thy love, I charge thee." Montano, Iago, Cassio

Iago: "Preferment goes by letter and affection. And not by old gradation, where each second Stood heir to the first." Roderigo

The Duke: "Noble signor, if virtue no delighted beauty lack your son-in-law is far more fair than black." Brabantio

Iago: "I follow him to serve my turn upon him... In following him I follow but myself... I am not what I am." Roderigo
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.
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.
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.
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.
Othello Vocabulary Review

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

**Ruffianism** – rowdy or tough behavior
**Ruminating** – 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 enhances 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 spoke 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>
The lawyer was a strong advocate for his client because he knew that he was innocent.

He had an affinity for the woman he met and asked her out on a date immediately.

The track and field competitor made an agile leap, allowing him to win the gold medal.

The students were greeted with alacrity by the teacher who had a big smile on her face.

The woman gave an amiable greeting by smiling and waving.

The gang leader watched his members attack the old woman, and felt no guilt because of his baseness.

The car salesman tried to beguile the customer with an offer of free gas for a year.
8. Bestial: BES chul | Definition: Brutal without reason, having the attributes of a ____(adj)___ savage.  
Sentence: The boy who was raised by wolves displayed bestial behavior. 

9. Bestow: be STOW  | Definition: To grant or to give. (v)  
Sentence: The prime minister will bestow medals to the brave soldiers who rescued their comrades. 

10. Boisterous: BOY stir ous  | Definition: Rowdy, rough and stormy. (adj)  
Sentence: The boisterous storm ripped through our town wrecking everything in sight. 

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

12. Candid: KAN did  | Definition: Blunt, sincere honesty. (adj)  
Sentence: She often spoke in a candid manner, revealing too much information about her children who often felt embarrassed. 

13. Carnal: KAR nul  | Definition: Marked by sexuality that is often frank and unrelieved by higher emotions. (adj)  
Sentence: Minors were not allowed in the art gallery as many of the pieces contained carnal nudity. 

14. Castigate: KAS nh gate  | Definition: To punish or to subdue by punishment; to criticize with drastic severity. (v)  
Sentence: When the police chief discovers his officers let the criminal escape, he is sure to castigate them. 

15. Circumspect: SIR kum spekt  | Definition: Careful to consider consequences, cautious, prudent. (adj)  
Sentence: 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.
The teacher hoped her speech about citizenship would edify her students and encourage them to contribute to their community.

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

The homeless man made an entreaty to the people walking by to donate money.

26. **Entreaty:** en TREE tee Definition: A plea, an earnest request.  
   Sentence: The epithet "Curley" is used to describe the man with curley hair.

The adults didn't understand Pokemon-Go but the teenagers thought it was facile and easily played.

27. **Epithet:** EP uh thet Definition: A term or phrase describing or characterizing.  
   Sentence: The police officer showed forbearance when he let the young vandals off with a warning.

28. **Facile:** FAS il Definition: Easily achieved with little difficulty.  
   Sentence: The table heaped with fulsome amounts of greasy food.

29. **Forbearance:** fore BAR was Definition: Patience, lenience.  
   Sentence: If the comedian wants to garner more laughs during her routine, she needs to write funnier jokes.

30. **Fulsome:** FUL sum Definition: Excess to the point of disgust, extreme lavishness.  
   Sentence: The soldiers realized the gravity of the battle when they saw from a distance they were outnumbered 2:1.
33. **Guileless**: GILE ləs  
**Definition**: Without deceit; innocent.  
**Sentence**: The guileless old woman trusted everyone and gave her life savings to the scam artist.

34. **Hideous**: HID ee us  
**Definition**: Very ugly, offensive, shocking.  
**Sentence**: The scary creature made a hideous croaking sound, terrifying us all.

35. **Homage**: HOM īj  
**Definition**: Respect shown by external action.  
**Sentence**: To show homage, the poor people brought gifts to the temple.

36. **Imperious**: IM PEER ē us  
**Definition**: Extremely overbearing.  
**Sentence**: The imperious woman sent her food back five times and complained to the manager that it was undercooked.

37. **Insolence**: IN sə nəs  
**Definition**: Insulting or contemptuous behavior.  
**Sentence**: The students' insolence caused him to be reprimanded by the teacher who eventually gave him a detention.

38. **Laconic**: luh KON īk  
**Definition**: Using a minimum of words; concise to the point of seeming rude.  
**Sentence**: The conversation between the man and his ex-girlfriend was laconic as it only lasted a few seconds.

39. **Lecher**: LECH ēr  
**Definition**: One who indulges excessively in sexual activity.  
**Sentence**: Other assured the Duke and council that he was not a lecher when requesting to take Desdemona to Cyprus with him.

40. **Lethargic**: luh THAR īk  
**Definition**: Sluggish, languid.  
**Sentence**: Hot weather makes me so extremely lethargic and all I want to do is sit by the pool.

41. **Malice**: MAL  
**Definition**: Desire to harm others.  
**Sentence**: 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.
paradoxical - 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 politicians 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.
TOPIC: Characters in Othello

Othello
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.

Desdemona
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)

Iago
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.

Michael Cassio
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.

Emilia
Iago’s wife and Desdemona’s attendant. She is a cynical woman who does not trust her husband.

Roderigo
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.

Bianca
An (alleged) prostitute in Cyprus. Her favorite customer is Cassio, who teases her with promises of marriage.

Brabanzio
Desdemona’s father and an important Venetian senator. He is friends with Othello but feel betrayed when the general marries his daughter in secret.

Duke of Venice
The official authority in Venice. The Duke has great respect for Othello as a public and military servant.

Montano
The governor of Cyprus before Othello.

Lodovico
A relative of Brabanzio, he acts as a messenger from Venice to Cyprus.

Graziano
A relative of Brabanzio, he accompanies Lodovice to Cyprus.

Clown
Othello’s servant.
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 noone 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 inter racial 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.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 send Othello to Cyprus to defend it. “The Duke does greet you, general, and he requires your haste-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.
TOPIC: Act I scene iii Homework Questions

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).
TOPIC: Act II scene i & ii Homework Questions

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 has been destroyed and their 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 bringin 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 in 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).
TOPIC: Act IV scene i Homework Questions

30. Explain the manner in which Iago is tormenting Othello at the beginning of the scene.

In the beginning of Act IV, Iago and Othello are having a conversation in which Iago suggests that Desdemona and Cassio have shared an innocent kiss which each other or lay naked in bed together but didn’t do anything. “Or be naked with her friend in bed an hour or more, not meaning any harm?” (IV.i. 3-4).

Finally, Iago mentions the handkerchief that Desdemona lost. Clearly Iago has gotten the best of Othello’s thoughts and emotions even if he admits that it will be difficult to prove any wrong doing.

31. What simile does Othello use within the first 30 lines of the scene?

“Oh, it comes o’er my memory, as doth the raven o’er the infectious house, boding to all - he had my handkerchief” (IV.i.20-21).

God I wish I could forget about that handkerchief! What you told me it haunts me like a nightmare-

32. Read Othello’s speech (lines 43 - 52). What is the effect of Othello’s fit on you as a reader or spectator?

After seeing Othello experience his fit one cannot help but feel bad for him. This is a man who was very successful in life (great job, just married, etc.) but due to Zara’s beguiling behavior and lies, his world is beginning to unravel. Others may feel frustrated by Othello’s actions. This is a man who was a respected general and some may say he is acting like child and needs to behave like the man he once was.

33. Iago makes four jibes at Othello’s manhood. Find the four insulting quotes.

“Would you bear your fortune like a man?” (IV.i. 74).

“Good sir, be a man” (IV.i 79).

“Whilst you were here, o’erwhelmed with your grief- a passion most (unsuiting) such a man-” (IV.i 91-92).

“Marry, patience, or I shall say you’re all in spleen, and nothing of a man” (IV.i 103-104).

34. According to Iago, Bianca is a “housewife” (pronounced ‘huzif’) or hussy who sells her ‘desires’ to earn a living. He goes on to make his meaning clearer by calling her a ‘strumpet’ (a whore). Many editors of Othello assume that Bianca is a prostitute, and call her that in the list of characters at the beginning of the play script. How accurate is Iago as judge or women? Can we take his description as an indefinite truth? Defend your response using specific references to Iago throughout the play.

Iago is not a very accurate judge of women. He is sexist and feels that women are subservient and below men. This can be seen in the relationship he has with his wife Emilia who he treats poorly. “Sir, would she give you so much of her lips as of her tongue she oft bestows on me, you’ll have enough” (II.i 109-111). Iago uses women throughout the play to help him get his revenge on Othello.

35. “How shall I murder him?” These words constitute Othello’s immediate reaction to the dialogue he just overheard. Are you shocked by the brutality of his words? Account for/defend Othello’s response. For example, is it understandable because Othello is a professional soldier, a man used to fighting? Or not?

Although surprised at Othello’s response it is not shocking considering his role as a soldier and general. We can assume that Othello is an effective general because he uses violence as a means to justify his actions. On the other hand, one could argue that when Othello faced conflict in the past, he was able to talk things out instead of resorting to violence (Conversation with Brabantio). As a General, we hope that he is intelligent enough for him to realize he is being tricked.

36. Who arrives from Venice? What connection does he have to Desdemona? What news does he bring? What action of Othello’s shocks and dismays this character?

Lodovico arrives from Venice. He is cousins with Desdemona and brings news that Othello is to return home to Venice and appoint Michael Cassio as governor in his place. Lodovico is shocked when Othello hits Desdemona calling her a devil “My lord, this would not be believed in Venice, though I should swear I saw’t. ’Tis very much. Make her amends, she weeps” (IV.i 234-236). Clearly Lodovico believes that Othello is not the man he once was.

37. Othello is the man “whom passion could not shake.” Is a lack of emotion in a man an admirable quality or not? Relate this to Othello. What does it imply about Venetian society that such a lack of emotion was valued in a leader?

It depends upon the situation Othello is in. As a general, it may be an admirable quality that Othello does not show emotion. It implies that the strongest leaders were able to separate themselves emotionally from their duty. As a husband, it is not an admirable quality. A good husband should be emotionally supportive of his wife, which Othello is, until he believes Desdemona is cheating on him.