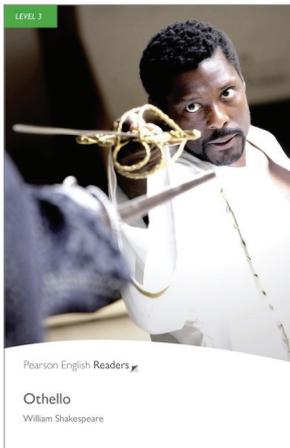


Othello

William Shakespeare



About the author

Though we know little for certain about the life of William Shakespeare (1564–1616) modern scholarship enables us to reconstruct his career with some accuracy. Born in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire, England, he was educated at the local grammar school. At 18, he married Anne Hathaway, eight years older than himself, and they had three children. Some time later he joined a company of actors, and by 1589 was probably in London, acting and writing plays. In 1594, he joined forces with the brilliant young actor Richard Burbage, and became one of the shareholders in what later became the King's Men, the foremost acting company of the time. For over twenty years, Shakespeare wrote two plays a year on average, experimenting with and creating new dramatic forms, excelling in tragedy, comedy, history and romance. He became rich and successful, and retired to Stratford in about 1610, while still maintaining his interest in the London theatre. He died in 1616, and the first collected edition of his works was published in 1623. *Othello* (1604) is one of his tragedies. His other famous plays include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1594), *Romeo and Juliet* (1595), *The Merchant of Venice* (1596), *Much Ado about Nothing* (1599), *Hamlet* (1601), *King Lear* (1605), *Macbeth* (1605) and *The Tempest* (1611).

Summary

Othello is a black general in the Venetian army. He secretly marries Desdemona, the daughter of a rich Venetian, Brabantio.

Act 1

Scene 1: The play starts with Roderigo, a young Venetian who is in love with Desdemona, arguing with Iago,

Othello's ensign. Iago has promised Roderigo that, in exchange for money, he would get Desdemona to accept his offer of marriage but he hasn't told him that she and Othello have just got married. Iago talks about his hatred of Othello for choosing Cassio as his lieutenant instead of him. To regain Roderigo's trust, Iago and Roderigo inform Brabantio, Desdemona's father, of her relationship with Othello. When Brabantio asks his men to bring lights, Iago cunningly leaves Roderigo, telling him that he can't safely speak against Othello yet. **Scene 2:** Iago tells a lie to Othello. He says that Roderigo is responsible for angering Brabantio by telling him about the marriage, and Iago tells Othello to watch out for Brabantio. Cassio comes to tell Othello that he is summoned to the Duke's palace as news of war has come: the Turks have attacked the island of Cyprus. **Scene 3:** Brabantio accuses Othello of using magic to get his daughter to marry him. Othello defends himself successfully in front of the Duke. By order of the Duke, Othello soon has to leave Venice to command the Venetian armies in Cyprus. It is decided that he will be accompanied by Desdemona, Cassio, Iago and Iago's wife Emilia, who is Desdemona's maid. Alone, Iago reveals his intention of continuing to use Roderigo for money and his hatred of Othello. Iago explains that his plan is to suggest to Othello that Cassio is sleeping with Desdemona.

Act 2

Scene 1: In Cyprus, everyone is waiting for Othello's arrival. A terrible storm has destroyed the Turkish fleet, and there's no more threat to Cyprus. Iago tells Roderigo that he still has a chance with Desdemona by making trouble for Cassio. **Scene 2:** Iago tempts Cassio into drinking too much, and Cassio ends up being in a fight. Othello has no choice but to demote Cassio from his position as his lieutenant. Next, Iago comforts Cassio by suggesting he speak with Desdemona and persuade her to put his case to Othello. Iago has a plan to use his wife Emilia to make sure that Desdemona and Cassio meet so that Othello can see Desdemona talking with Cassio, thus allowing Iago to convince Othello that Desdemona is being unfaithful.

Act 3

Scene 1: Cassio asks Iago and Emilia to help him so that he can speak to Desdemona. **Scene 2:** Desdemona assures Cassio that she will keep putting in a good word for him until he is again Othello's lieutenant. At a distance, Iago plants the seeds of doubt in Othello's mind about

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Desdemona and Cassio. Othello now complains of a headache to Desdemona, which results in her dropping her handkerchief, Othello's first gift to her. Emilia picks this up and gives it to Iago without knowing that he would place it in Cassio's room. Othello demands proof from Iago of Desdemona's infidelity, and Iago tells Othello he saw Cassio using Desdemona's handkerchief. Othello is enraged and hurt, and he tells Iago to kill Cassio. Othello will deal with Desdemona. **Scene 3:** Desdemona worries about her missing handkerchief. Othello asks her for the handkerchief and stresses the value the handkerchief has for him. Desdemona tells Cassio that her attempts to help him are not going well. Iago claims total ignorance of the cause of Othello's fury. Cassio finds the handkerchief in his room but doesn't know whose it is and gives it to his lover, Bianca.

Act 4

Scene 1: Iago tells Othello that Desdemona has given the handkerchief to Cassio. Later, Iago cunningly talks to Cassio about his lover, Bianca, and a hidden Othello thinks Cassio is talking about sleeping with Desdemona. Then Bianca arrives, angrily giving back the handkerchief. This convinces Othello. He decides to kill Desdemona in her bed, which is Iago's idea. Lodovico arrives, announcing that Othello is to return to Venice and Cassio is to replace him in Cyprus. Desdemona is pleased for Cassio and this makes Othello hit her across the face in front of Lodovico. Lodovico is surprised to see how much Othello seems to have changed. **Scene 2:** Othello questions Emilia as to whether Desdemona was unfaithful to him. Emilia says that nothing has happened between Desdemona and Cassio, but Othello dismisses her comments as those of a simple woman. Othello eventually reveals to Desdemona that her infidelity is the source of his anger, and Desdemona pleads her innocence. Emilia is certain that some evil person has told Othello to believe Desdemona has been unfaithful, not realising that this evil man is her husband. Iago urges Roderigo to kill Cassio. **Scene 4:** After dinner with Lodovico, Othello orders Desdemona to go to bed to await him. Emilia makes Desdemona's bed with her wedding sheets as requested. Desdemona recalls the song of a maid who was similarly abused, and sings it.

Act 5

Scene 1: Roderigo and Iago wait in a street to ambush Cassio. Roderigo attacks Cassio as Iago suggested, but Cassio wounds Roderigo instead. Iago stabs Cassio,

wounding him in the leg, and hides in the dark. Lodovico and Gratiano arrive, and Iago claims total innocence of Cassio's injuries. Then Iago stabs and kills Roderigo 'in revenge' for his 'friend' Cassio. **Scene 2:** Othello enters the bedroom. He kisses his wife one last time. And then kills Desdemona. Emilia is let in, revealing that Roderigo has been killed, and Desdemona murmurs her last words. Desdemona dies in front of Emilia. Othello tells Emilia that Iago has told him about Desdemona and Cassio. Montano, Gratiano and Iago come in. Emilia tells Othello the truth about the handkerchief. Iago is now in trouble, and stabs his wife. Emilia dies, singing the same song that Desdemona sang. Lodovico, Montano, Cassio arrive, and Othello wounds Iago, but doesn't kill him. Othello, realising what he has done, kills himself and dies next to Desdemona.

Background and themes

It is said that the primary source for *Othello* is a short story from *Gli Hecatommithi*, a collection of tales published in 1565 by Gherardo Cinthio. The earliest recorded performance was on 1 November, 1604, at the Banqueting House in Whitehall, before the court of King James I.

Love and jealousy: Desdemona truly loves Othello faithfully, but Othello swiftly descends into jealousy because Iago persuades him to be suspicious of Desdemona and Cassio. Othello's jealousy and rage change him completely, and destroy him at the end.

Honest or dishonest? The villain Iago manipulates everyone diabolically, while everyone calls him 'honest' Iago.

Appearance vs. reality: The gap between appearance and reality is very clear to readers (or audience), but Othello, blinded by jealousy, trusts evil Iago because of what things seem to be.

Discussion activities

Act 1

Before reading

- Discuss:** Put students into pairs. Have them look at the front cover. Ask them to describe the picture.
- Research:** Bring in a map of Europe. Ask students to find Venice and Cyprus. Then, put students into small groups to look up some information about Venice and Cyprus. Students can use reference books and the Internet. Later ask groups to report what information they have got.

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After reading

- 3 Read carefully:** Write the following names on the board: Iago, Roderigo, Brabantio, Othello, Cassio and Desdemona. In pairs, students describe how they are related to each other. Later ask some pairs to share their answers with the rest of the class.
- 4 Discuss:** Have a whole-class discussion by asking the following question: *Iago says, 'Desdemona won't love the Moor forever, and he won't love her. It started quickly, and it will end quickly.' Do you think it's true? Do you think love doesn't last forever if it starts quickly?*

Act 2

Before reading

- 5 Predict:** Put students into pairs. Have them discuss the following question: *Now Iago plans to tell Othello that Cassio is a little too friendly with Desdemona. What will Othello say? How does he react? What do you think?*

After reading

- 6 Discuss:** Have students work in small groups to discuss the following question: *At the beginning of Scene 2 Othello calls Cassio 'Good Michael', but after the fight he calls him 'Cassio'. Why do you think he does so?*
- 7 Read carefully:** Put students into pairs. Ask them to go over what exactly Iago says and does to other characters. Encourage them to think of the reasons why Iago does so. Have them discuss what Iago's real intentions are.
- 8 Discuss:** Put students into small groups, and have them talk about Roderigo. *What do you think of him? Why do you think he listens to Iago? What kind of person do you think he is?*

Act 3

Before reading

- 9 Predict:** Have students look at the title *A Jealous Man*. Ask them the following questions: *Who is jealous? Why? What will happen in Act 3?*

After reading

- 10 Read carefully and act out:** Have students work in pairs. Have them read the conversation between Othello and Iago in Scene 2 (pages 21–23). Ask them to find out how Iago makes himself look good to in Othello's eyes. Have them list the corresponding lines that Iago says. Then, have pairs discuss how to act out the scene. Encourage them to think about facial expression, tone of the voice, body language, etc. Give them sufficient time to practise acting out the scene. When they are ready, ask some pairs to perform a part of the dialogue in sequence. Elicit some positive comments on the performances from the rest of the class.

- 11 Read carefully:** Have students work in pairs. *Iago says, 'She fell in love with you and married you. And her own father knew nothing about it.' He clearly remembers what Desdemona's father has said in Act 1. Go back to Act 1, and find what exactly Brabantio said.*
- 12 Discuss:** Iago mentions racial differences. Have a whole-class discussion on marrying someone from a different country. Elicit opinions for and against.
- 13 Describe:** Put students into small groups. Ask them to think of adjectives to describe Othello at the beginning of the play. Then have them think of other adjectives to describe Othello after Iago tells him about Desdemona and Cassio.

Act 4

Before reading

- 14 Predict:** Put students into small groups. Taking into account the previous act and the title *The End of Love*, have students guess how the love (between Othello and Desdemona) ends.

After reading

- 15 Discuss:** Have students work in pairs to discuss the following questions: *How important is the handkerchief? Why is it important? Imagine that Desdemona didn't drop the handkerchief. Would Othello still be jealous, do you think?*
- 16 Discuss:** Have students work in small groups. Ask them to explain the change or differences in the relationship between Othello and Desdemona compared with when they first arrived in Cyprus. Students can write a list, and then later they can share their lists with the rest of the class.

Act 5

Before reading

- 17 Discuss:** The title of Act 5 is *Death*. Write the following names on the board: Othello, Desdemona, Iago, Cassio, Roderigo, Emilia and Bianca. Ask students to raise their hands to vote on who they want to be dead at the end of the play. Encourage them to give reasons.

After reading

- 18 Read carefully:** Have students work in pairs. Ask them if they were surprised to see Othello kill himself. Ask them if they knew he would do that. In Act 3, Othello says something to foreshadow his action. Have students go back to Act 3, and find out what he says exactly.
- 19 Discuss:** Have students work in pairs and discuss what happens to Iago later. Ask some pairs to share their ideas with the rest of the class.

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While reading

Act 1

1 Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

daughter enemies lieutenant servants
soldier a thief

- a Iago wanted to become Othello's, but he chose Cassio.
- b Brabantio told his to bring lights.
- c Othello is a, and he knows war best.
- d Othello loves Brabantio's
- e Brabantio calls Othello
- f The Duke says Othello must sail against their, the Turks.

2 What does Iago say to each person? What is he talking about? Write.

a	to Roderigo
b	to Othello
c	to himself

Act 2

3 Who says these things? Who are the underlined words?

- a 'Thank you, good men of Cyprus, for your kind words about the Moor.'
Who:
the Moor:
- b 'You are unkind to me.'
Who:
You:
- c 'How wonderful to see you, my dearest wife.'
Who:
my dearest wife:
- d 'She was just being polite.'
Who:
She:

- e 'He is a loving kind man – but I hate him.'
Who:
He:
- f 'He's a good soldier, but he always drinks too much.'
Who:
He:

4 Correct the mistakes.

- a The Turks have lost their ships in the war.
.....
- b Desdemona arrives in Cyprus with Cassio.
.....
- c Iago tells Cassio that Desdemona is in love with him.
.....
- d Othello is younger than Desdemona.
.....
- e Cassio drinks a cup of coffee with other officers.
.....
- f Cassio hits Roderigo with his gun.
.....

Act 3

5 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a Emilia helps Cassio speak to Desdemona.
- b Cassio often stole Othello's love letters to Desdemona.
- c Iago tells Othello to watch his wife with Roderigo.
- d Othello says he has a pain in his stomach.
- e Desdemona drops her handkerchief.
- f Iago picks up the handkerchief.
- g Iago tells Othello that he has seen the handkerchief.

6 Answer these questions.

- a What does Emilia say when Desdemona asks her about the handkerchief?
.....
- b Who gave the handkerchief to Othello's mother?
.....
- c Why does Othello ask about the handkerchief?
.....
- d What does Desdemona think is troubling Othello?
.....
- e Who does Cassio give the handkerchief to?
.....

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Act 4

7 Write the names from the box in the right places. You can use the same name more than once.

Bianca Cassio Desdemona Emilia Iago
Lodovico Othello Roderigo The Duke

- a tells Othello that Cassio was in bed with Desdemona.
- b Iago talks to about Bianca.
- c thinks that another girl gave Cassio the handkerchief.
- d brings news from Venice.
- e is calling Othello back to Venice.
- f Othello thinks is just a simple woman.
- g is tired of listening to Iago.
- h Iago tells Roderigo to kill

8 Finish these sentences.

- a Iago tells Othello that he will question Cassio about Desdemona, but actually he talks
- b Bianca is in love with Cassio, but Cassio
- c Othello hits Desdemona's face because
- d Othello asks Emilia about Desdemona and Cassio, but
- e Emilia thinks the devil has put the wrong ideas into Othello's head, but she doesn't know that
- f Othello calls Desdemona a whore, but
- g Roderigo is not happy because
- h Desdemona asks Emilia to put her wedding sheets on the bed because

Act 5

9 Put these events in order, 1–8.

- a Roderigo attacks Cassio with his sword.
- b Iago kills Roderigo.
- c Iago wounds Cassio in the leg.
- d Othello wounds Iago with his sword.
- e Iago kills Emilia.
- f Othello kills Desdemona.
- g Cassio cuts Roderigo with his sword.
- h Othello wounds himself in the chest with a knife.

10 Put the words in the right order to make questions.

- a are / God / meet / ready / to / you / ?
.....
- b are / killing / me / of / talking / you / ?
.....
- c are / mind / of / out / you / your / ?
.....
- d of / song / the / were / what / words / your / ?
.....
- e and / Cassio's / death / did / he / plan / you / ?
.....

After reading

11 Answer these questions.

- a Why does Iago hate Othello?
.....
- b Why is Othello jealous?
.....
- c Who gives the handkerchief to Iago?
.....
- d Who is Desdemona in love with?
.....
- e Why does Iago kill Roderigo?
.....
- f Where is Desdemona killed?
.....
- g Who is killed at the end of the play?
.....

12 Choose the correct words and complete these songs.

A soldier's life is very hard
He has no time to think.
So open up a bottle, boys
And give the men a (a)

Oh, down by the river a girl sat alone;
Her eyes were all water, her heart was all
(b)

Oh, cover me over with roses so sweet;
Put some at my head and put some at my
(c)

The sun has gone in, and the moon's in the sky;
My lover has left me, and now I must (d)

1) die
2) drink
3) feet
4) stone

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Photocopiable

1 Match the names (a–g) and the descriptions (1–7).

- a Othello
 - b Desdemona
 - c Cassio
 - d Iago
 - e Emilia
 - f Bianca
 - g Roderigo
- 1) hates Othello.
 - 2) loves Othello.
 - 3) sells her body for bread.
 - 4) gives a handkerchief to his wife.
 - 5) attacks Cassio.
 - 6) finds a handkerchief in his room.
 - 7) looks after her lady.

2 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

- a Everyone calls Iago *brave / honest*.
- b Iago is Othello's *ensign / lieutenant*.
- c Desdemona is *unfaithful / innocent*.
- d Othello is a *black / white* soldier.
- e Jealously makes Othello *kind / evil*.

3 Choose the correct answer.

- a What made Desdemona fall in love with Othello?

 - 1) His handkerchief.
 - 2) His stories.
 - 3) His strong hands.

- b What is Cassio's weakness?

 - 1) He gets drunk easily.
 - 2) He can't ride a horse.
 - 3) He has a bad knee.

- c Who asks Emilia to steal the handkerchief?

 - 1) Cassio.
 - 2) Bianca.
 - 3) Iago.

- d How is Desdemona killed?

 - 1) Othello stabs her.
 - 2) Othello holds his hand over her mouth.
 - 3) Othello hits her very hard.

- e Who kills Othello?

 - 1) Iago kills him.
 - 2) Emilia kills him.
 - 3) He kills himself.

4 Are these sentences true (T) or not true (NT)?

- a Brabantio didn't know about the marriage of Othello and Desdemona.
- b Desdemona arrived in Cyprus after Othello did.

- c Cassio had a fight when he was drunk.
- d Iago used Othello's money.
- e Othello believed what Iago told him.
- f Iago was honest.

5 Complete the sentences. Use the words from the box.

ensign evil faithful innocent lieutenant
magic sword

- a Othello is a soldier for Venice.
- b Cassio, Othello's, is also a good soldier.
- c Othello thinks Iago, his, is a wise and honest man.
- d Iago plays an game with Othello's mind.
- e Othello calls Desdemona 'my girl' after she dies.

6 Who says these? Choose the correct names from the box.

Brabantio Cassio Desdemona
Iago Othello Roderigo

- a says, 'Thief! What have you done with my daughter?'
- b says, 'I never loved Cassio, never gave him anything!'
- c says, 'I am not drunk. This is my ensign and this is my right hand and this is my left.'
- d says, 'I want my money back.'
- e says, 'At last I see that everything is going well for me.'
- f says, 'I killed my love, and now I must die.'

7 Find ten words from the play.

u	s	e	r	v	a	n	t
a	c	t	a	e	u	h	l
j	e	a	l	o	u	s	y
s	n	G	o	d	v	i	f
k	e	i	r	e	e	h	f
e	u	a	d	u	k	e	s
w	h	o	r	e	n	l	t
r	w	o	u	n	d	l	a

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

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Book key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 a duke, ensign, lieutenant, lord, servant, whore
b act, scene
c ensign, lieutenant, sword, wound
d devil, evil, faithful, God, guilty, hell, innocent
- 3 a He is fighting their enemies, the Turks, as a Venetian general
b He is black and a foreigner (from North Africa).
c jealousy
d brave, successful, happy
e 1603 or 1604.
f 1) he was living in London
2) working as an actor and a writer of plays.
g Orson Welles
- 4 Open answers
- 5 a ✗
b ✓
c ✗
d ✗
e ✗
f ✓
g ✓
h ✓
i ✓
j ✓
- 6 Possible answers:
a murderer > thief
b an old man > a black man
c songs > stories
d friendly > angry
e the next day > that night
f heart > head
- 7 Possible answers:
a Othello likes Iago. He thinks that Iago is honest. Iago secretly hates Othello. He wanted to be Othello's lieutenant, but Othello chose Cassio. Also, Iago thinks that Othello is his wife's lover. Perhaps he also hates him because Othello is black and a foreigner.
b Iago uses Roderigo in his plans to destroy Cassio and Othello. He wants Roderigo's money. Roderigo thinks that Iago is his friend. Iago will, he thinks, help him to marry Desdemona.
c Brabantio was friendly to Othello and welcomed him to his house, but he doesn't want him as a husband for his daughter. Othello is kind to Brabantio, because Brabantio is an old man and his wife's father.
- d Cassio thinks that Iago is a good man. Iago hates Cassio because he is Othello's lieutenant. Perhaps he also hates him because Cassio is popular with women.
e Brabantio loves his daughter. He wants to choose a husband for her. Desdemona loves her father but wanted to choose her own husband.
- 8–9 Open answers
- 10 a 6
b 2
c 7
d 9
e 5
f 3
g 1
h 8
i 4
- 11 Possible answers:
a Cassio drinks too much and is too ready to fight. It is a mistake to kiss Emilia. It is also a mistake to talk in a very friendly way to Desdemona.
b No, there doesn't seem to be much love between Iago and Emilia.
c Cassio likes Desdemona, but he is not in love with her. He knows that she is his general's wife.
d Desdemona likes Cassio because he is Othello's good friend.
- 12–13 Open answers
- 14 a Cassio / Iago
b Cassio / Othello
c Desdemona / Cassio
d Othello / Desdemona
e Iago / jealousy
f Othello / (sex with) Desdemona
g Emilia / Desdemona's handkerchief
h Iago / Cassio
i Desdemona / Othello
j Bianca / Desdemona's handkerchief
- 15 a about
b with
c in
d for
e from
f to
g at
h of
i on

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16 Possible answers:

- a Othello is suffering from jealousy. He believes that Cassio is his wife's lover. Iago is jealous of Cassio because he is Othello's lieutenant. He is also jealous of Othello because he is successful. Iago also thinks that both Othello and Cassio are Emilia's lovers. Bianca is jealous when she sees the handkerchief. She thinks that another girl gave it to Cassio.
- b Desdemona is sad. She loves Othello. She doesn't know why he is angry with her. She also wants him to help his friend, Cassio, but he refuses.
- c Iago is telling lies.

17 Open answers

18 a a handkerchief

- b his heart
- c Bianca
- d angry
- e will not speak
- f The Duke
- g surprised
- h believes
- i will always love
- j go to bed alone

19 a shakes

- b laughs
- c follows
- d gives
- e hits
- f cries
- g asks
- h sings

20 Possible answers:

- a Emilia understands most.
- b Emilia knows that someone is telling lies about Desdemona. She knows that Desdemona is innocent. Lodovico is very surprised when Othello hits Desdemona. He thinks that Othello is sick or crazy. Desdemona doesn't understand why Othello is so angry. She knows she is innocent.

21 Open answers (b Cassio and Iago)

22 a Roderigo

- b Cassio
- c Iago
- d Iago
- e Iago
- f Othello
- g Othello
- h Emilia
- i Emilia
- j Iago
- k Othello
- l Othello

23 a right

- b right
- c wrong: Othello kisses Desdemona.
- d wrong: Othello kills Desdemona by putting his hand over her mouth.
- e right
- f wrong: Emilia is not afraid of Othello.
- g right
- h wrong: Iago refuses to talk.

24–34 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1 Possible answers:

A black man is fighting with his sword.
He is wearing something white.

2 Open answers

3 Suggested answers:

Othello – Desdemona: husband and wife
Brabantio – Desdemona: father and daughter
Othello – Cassio: a general and his lieutenant
Othello – Iago: a general and his ensign, Iago hates Othello
Iago – Roderigo: friends, Iago wants Roderigo's money
Roderigo – Desdemona: Roderigo is in love with Desdemona

4–5 Open answers

6 Possible answers:

'Good Michael' shows that Othello has a close relationship with Cassio.
Perhaps Othello wanted to distance himself from Cassio after the fight.

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7 Suggested answers:

To whom	What he says	What he means
Roderigo	You must find a way to make him angry.	I want to use him to destroy Cassio.
Cassio	Oh, just one cup. this isn't an ordinary night.	Get drunk, and soon you'll be in trouble.
Montano	You see how Cassio is? Oh, no. I couldn't do that. Cassio is my friend.	I want you to think Cassio isn't a very good lieutenant.
Othello	I'll cut out my tongue before I'll hurt Michael Cassio. But I must be honest.	I want you to think I'm honest. I want Cassio to suffer for this.
Cassio	You know I'm your true friend. Ask Desdemona to help you.	I want to destroy you. I'll tell Othello she loves you, and then I'll destroy you all.

8 Possible answers:

Perhaps he thinks he can have Desdemona if he listens to Iago.

I don't think he is very smart.

9 Open answers

10 Suggested answers:

My lord, you know I love you.

My lord, I do not want to tell you. It's easy to make a mistake.

My good name, my lord, is the dearest thing I own.

I do it out of love for you.

11 Oh Moor, you think your love is true. But as she's done to me, she'll do to you. (page 8)

12 Open answers

13 Suggested answers:

at the beginning	after Iago tells him
good, great, brave, loving, kind	jealous, angry, evil, cold

14–17 Open answers

18 If my love for you ever dies, my life will be at an end. (page 21)

19 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

1 a lieutenant

- b servants
- c soldier
- d daughter
- e a thief
- f enemies

2 Suggested answers:

- a Remember, I'm your friend. I'm here to help you. But you'll need money.

Iago is talking about helping Roderigo win Desdemona. He wants Roderigo to pay him.

- b Oh, you don't know the terrible things he said about you. I hated listening to them.

Iago is telling Othello that Roderigo and Brabantio speak ill of him. Iago wants Othello to think that he is on his side.

- c I'll soon have his money. It's the only reason I spend time with a man like him. I hate the Moor. I'll finish him. I'll use Cassio, and bring him down, too.

Iago wants Roderigo's money. He is also talking about his evil plan to damage Othello and Cassio.

3 a Who: Cassio, the Moor: Othello

- b Who: Emilia, You: Iago

- c Who: Othello, my dearest wife: Desdemona

- d Who: Roderigo, She: Desdemona

- e Who: Iago, He: Othello

- f Who: Iago, He: Cassio

4 a war > storm

- b Cassio > Iago

- c Cassio > Roderigo, him > Cassio

- d younger > older

- e coffee > wine

- f gun > sword

5 a T

- b F

- c F

- d F

- e T

- f F

- g T

6 a She says she doesn't know.

- b A wise old woman.

- c Because he thinks Desdemona has given it to Cassio.

- d She thinks some business in Venice or Cyprus is troubling him.

- e He gives it to Bianca.

Othello

- 7 a Iago
b Cassio
c Bianca
d Lodovico
e The Duke
f Emilia
g Roderigo
h Cassio
- 8 Suggested answers:
a to him about Bianca.
b just laughs at her.
c Desdemona is glad to hear that Cassio will stay in Cyprus taking Othello's place.
d she says they have done nothing wrong.
e the devil is her own husband.
f she isn't.
g Iago has taken all his money and he hasn't even spoken to Desdemona.
h she wants to be covered with one of the sheets if she dies.
- 9 a 1
b 4
c 3
d 7
e 6
f 5
g 2
h 8
- 10 a Are you ready to meet God?
b Are you talking of killing me?
c Are you out of your mind?
d What were the words of your song?
e Did you and he plan Cassio's death?
- 11 a Because he didn't make him his lieutenant.
b Because he thinks Desdemona is sleeping with Cassio.
c Emilia.
d She is in love with Othello.
e Because Roderigo may talk about Iago's plan.
f In the bed.
g Othello.
- 12 a 2
b 4
c 3
d 1

Progress test key

- 1 a 4 b 2 c 6 d 1 e 7 f 3 g 5
- 2 a honest
b ensign
c innocent
d black
e evil
- 3 a 2
b 1
c 3
d 2
e 3
- 4 a T
b NT
c T
d NT
e T
f NT
- 5 a faithful
b lieutenant
c ensign
d evil
e innocent
- 6 a Bianca
b Desdemona
c Cassio
d Roderigo
e Iago
f Othello
- 7 servant act
jealousy God
duke whore
wound scene
lord hell