

Othello

William Shakespeare

Act 1

- 1 Iago wanted the job as Othello's lieutenant, but Othello had given it to Cassio.
- 2 To tell him that his daughter had got married in secret, and to make trouble.
- 3 At first Brabantio did not believe them, then he was very upset and angry.
- 4 No, Iago lied. He said he did not like hearing Roderigo say bad things about Othello, but it was he, Iago, who had said many bad things.
- 5 Othello was calm. He was not worried that Brabantio knew he had got married. He was in control.
- 6 The duke had received bad news of a dangerous situation in Cyprus. Turkish ships were sailing towards Cyprus, which meant that the Turks were going to attack Cyprus.
- 7 Desdemona liked listening to the stories Othello told about his life as a soldier. She fell in love with him because of the dangers he had experienced and the stories he told.
- 8 She decided to go with Othello to Cyprus.
- 9 Iago decided to trick or deceive Othello by making him believe Desdemona was in love with Cassio.

Act 2

- 1 There was a terrible storm which destroyed the Turkish ships. The Turkish ships sank.
- 2 Iago told Roderigo that Desdemona was in love with Cassio. It wasn't true.
- 3 Iago's plan was to make Othello very jealous – so jealous that Othello would go mad. He was going to use Roderigo and lie about Cassio to make Othello think Cassio and Desdemona were in love. Then Othello would thank Iago for showing him the truth and he would take the job of lieutenant away from Cassio and give it to Iago.
- 4 There would be a celebration because the Venetians had won the war in Cyprus and because Othello had got married.
- 5 Iago wanted to make Cassio drunk so that he would start a fight. He wanted to make Cassio start an argument with Roderigo and some other men.
- 6 Iago had made Cassio and the other men have too much to drink. Iago sent Roderigo to start an argument with Cassio, so Cassio chased Roderigo with his sword. Then Montano tried to stop Cassio, but Cassio didn't like it when Montano said he was drunk. So Cassio and Montano began to fight.
- 7 Iago told Othello that he didn't know how the fight had started. Iago gave a false description of what had happened. He said that he had been talking to Signior Montano when they heard a noise; he had seen Cassio chasing a man with his sword; he went to stop the other man because he didn't want him to frighten the people of Cyprus; when he got back he saw Cassio fighting with Signior Montano. He was lying, because he knew how the fight had started; he did not say that he knew Roderigo; he said that he wanted to stop the man frightening the people on the island, but he had told him to shout and ring a bell; he knew that Cassio would have a fight because he had made him drunk.
- 8 Othello told Cassio that he had lost his job. Cassio was not Othello's lieutenant anymore.
- 9 Cassio was very upset that he had lost his reputation, and he was very ashamed.
- 10 Iago advised Cassio to ask Desdemona to help him get his job back. He told Cassio to ask Desdemona to speak to her husband, Othello, about the job.

Act 3

- 1 Desdemona said she would ask Othello to be friends again with Cassio and give him his job back.
- 2 She wanted to help Cassio because she liked him and she thought he was a good soldier. She was not in love with him.
- 3 Iago wanted to make Othello think he knew something which he didn't want to tell Othello about. This made Othello worried; it made him start to have doubts about Desdemona.
- 4 No, Iago said different things about reputation. In Act 2, Scene 3, he told Cassio that reputation wasn't important. But in Act 3, Scene 2, he told Othello the opposite – he said that a good reputation was the most valuable thing a person had. Iago told many lies and said different things to different people so that he could trick them all.
- 5 Iago said that jealousy was like a monster with green eyes (a 'green-eyed monster'). He said jealousy is a dangerous monster because it eats you, and while it is eating you, it laughs at you.
- 6 Desdemona's handkerchief was special because it was the first present Othello had given her. It was a very pretty handkerchief with strawberries embroidered on it. We also know it must be important because Emilia said Iago had asked her many times to steal it.
- 7 Iago was going to put the handkerchief in Cassio's room for Cassio to find. He didn't say exactly how the handkerchief would make Othello more jealous, but he said it was going to be part of his plan.
- 8 The first piece of proof was that Cassio had talked about Desdemona in his sleep and said they had to be careful to hide their love. This was a lie, but it made Othello think that Desdemona was in love with Cassio. The second piece of proof was that Cassio had got Desdemona's handkerchief. This was not a real piece of proof either because Iago had put the handkerchief in Cassio's room, and he was probably lying about Cassio cleaning his face with it. It made Othello think that Desdemona must have given the handkerchief to Cassio because she loved him.
- 9 Othello told Iago to kill Cassio.
- 10 Othello was angry and wanted to show Desdemona that he was angry and jealous with her. He knew she didn't have the handkerchief, but she didn't know why he was so angry.

Act 4

- 1 He was going mad with jealousy; he was not in control anymore.
- 2 Iago and Cassio were talking about Bianca, but Othello thought they are talking, and laughing, about Desdemona.
- 3 Bianca was Cassio's girlfriend. He had given her the handkerchief because he had found it in his room.
- 4 He decided to kill her by strangling her while she was sleeping.
- 5 Lodovico brought Othello a letter from the duke of Venice. In the letter, the duke asked Othello to return to Venice.
- 6 He saw Othello get very angry and hit Desdemona.
- 7 He was very upset because he thought Desdemona was in love with Cassio and had been kissing him. He said he couldn't bear it and he wished he had never been born.
- 8 Emilia said someone had told Othello lies about Desdemona. Iago said that that was impossible. We know it was true and that it was Iago who had been telling the lies.
- 9 He had told her to go to bed and wait for him, and to send Emilia away early.

Act 5

- 1 Iago wanted Roderigo to attack and kill Cassio.
- 2 Iago had borrowed a lot of money from Roderigo, and Iago didn't want to pay it back. Iago was frightened that Cassio would tell people the truth. So Iago wanted them both to die.
- 3 First Cassio wounded Roderigo. Then Iago wounded Cassio. Then Iago killed Roderigo.
- 4 Othello killed Desdemona.
- 5 Emilia thought Cassio had killed Roderigo, but Iago had killed him.
- 6 The lie was that Desdemona had deceived Othello because she was in love with Cassio. Emilia knew this was a lie because Desdemona was innocent and loved Othello.
- 7 She told him that she had found the handkerchief and given it to Iago, that Desdemona had not given Cassio the handkerchief.
- 8 He looked for a sword, which he knew was in the room.
- 9 Othello stabbed Iago because he wanted to kill him, but he didn't kill him. Othello stabbed himself and died. Iago was going to be punished.