*Othello* Act 1, Scenes 1 and 2

Close Reading Guide

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| **Part 1: Review the reading we did from Monday (you may also reference your annotations) and answer the following questions:** |

1. Name two things you know about each of the following characters:

a. Iago:

b. Roderigo:

c. Brabantio:

d. Othello:

2. A common motif (i.e., a recurring element) in *Othello* is the idea of *appearance vs. reality*. Find evidence of this motif (i.e., a quotation!) in the text and use it to make an inference about a character.

3. How does Iago describe Desdemona and Othello? What does this tell you about Iago, Desdemona, and Othello?

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| **Part 2: Answer the following questions with your partner.** |

**Scene 1:**

4. Give a brief synopsis of Roderigo’s speech to Brabantio (1.1.117-137) .

5. Find the references to Othello in Roderigo’s speech. How does Roderigo describe Othello?

6. Find one more example of *appearance vs. reality* from Scene 1.

**Scene 2:**

7. Translate Othello’s speech to Iago (1.2.16-27):

**Othello.** Let him do his spite.

My services which I have done the Signiory\*

Shall out-tongue his complaints. ‘Tis yet to know—

Which, when I know that boasting is an honor,

I shall promulgate—I fetch my life and being 20

From men of royal siege;\* and my demerits\*

May speak unbonneted\* to as proud a fortune

As this that I have reached. For know, Iago,

But that I love the gentle Desdemona,

I would not my unhoused free condition 25

Put into circumscription and confine

For the sea’s worth.\*

8. Make three inferences about Othello based on his speech.

9. Give a brief synopsis of Brabantio’s speech to Othello (1.2.61-80). What does Brabantio accuse Othello of?

10. Analyze Othello’s behavior and attitude towards Brabantio and his accusations. How does Othello behave and what does this say about his character?