

The following questions have been crafted to deepen and expand your students' understanding of the text. They can be used for homework or to prompt classroom discussions.

DECEIT:

How did Iago succeed in manipulating Othello?

- Using specific textual references (noting the line, character, act, and scene), chart the course of Iago's deception of Othello throughout the play.
- Make a note of which events were planned and which were happy accidents.

THE WOMEN:

How does the character of Emilia change throughout the play?

- Look at the moments where she stays silent and those when she chooses to speak.
- Could her choices have altered the outcome of the story?

How is Desdemona represented at various points within the story?

- And how does this affect her relationship with Othello?
- Look for specific moments which are pivotal in her journey and the course their relationship takes.

How are women represented in the play?

- Find specific textual evidence to support your opinion.
- Then find the corresponding moment in at least two productions of *Othello*.
- Compare and contrast the choices made in the depiction of those moments.

RACE:

What role does race play in *Othello*, the text, and in the representation of Othello, the man?

- Cite specific examples where Othello's race is spoken about or commented on. Who says those things and why?
- What prejudices are exposed?
- What impact does race have on the relationship between Othello and Desdemona?

- Research the time period the play was written and the political climate in England surrounding race.
- Draw conclusions on why Shakespeare chose to portray Othello as he did and what statement he may have been trying to make.
- How does the time period in which the play was written compare to life today?

Watch [*Dear Mister Shakespeare*](#): Inspired by Shakespeare's Othello.