

Name: _____

World Literature and Analysis

Date: _____

Ms. Grgas

Othello by William Shakespeare

Act II Quotation Sheet

Directions: As we watch the film, you are to carefully listen for and analyze the quotations below. Be sure to identify the three Ss: speaker, situation, and significance to the plot, character, theme, and play as a whole.

Scene 1: Othello and his troops return from Cyprus victorious. Cassio gives Montano and the rest of them the news, and shares a few friendly moments with Desdemona as he assures her of Othello's state. This interaction plays perfectly into Iago's plans. Iago, Desdemona, Emilia and Cassio have fun with play on words as they tease one another regarding the expectations of a woman and wife. Othello is eager to see Desdemona since they have not been able to share a honeymoon to date. Iago then speaks with Roderigo and plants a seed in his mind that Desdemona is voracious because she now seems to be interested in Cassio.

1. "He takes her by the palm: ay, well said, whisper: with as little a web as this will I ensnare as great a fly as Cassio. Ay, smile upon her, do; I will gyve thee in thine own courtship. You say true; 'tis so, indeed: if such tricks as these strip you out of your lieutenantry, it had been better you had not kissed your three fingers so oft, which now again you are most apt to play the sir in. Very good; well kissed! an excellent courtesy! 'tis so, indeed. Yet again your fingers to your lips? would they were clyster-pipes for your sake!"

Speaker:

Situation:

Significance:

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2. “O, you are well tuned now!
But I'll set down the pegs that make this music,
As honest as I am.”

Speaker:

Situation:

Significance:

3. “When the blood is made dull with the act of sport, there should be, again to inflame it and to give satiety a fresh appetite, loveliness in favour, sympathy in years, manners and beauties; all which the Moor is defective in: now, for want of these required conveniences, her delicate tenderness will find itself abused, begin to heave the gorge, disrelish and abhor the Moor; very nature will instruct her in it and compel her to some second choice. Now, sir, this granted,--as it is a most pregnant and unforced position--who stands so eminent in the degree of this fortune as Cassio does?”

Speaker:

Situation:

Significance:

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4. “Now, I do love her too;
Not out of absolute lust, though peradventure
I stand accountant for as great a sin,
But partly led to diet my revenge,
For that I do suspect the lusty Moor
Hath leap'd into my seat; the thought whereof
Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw my inwards;
And nothing can or shall content my soul
Till I am even'd with him, wife for wife,
Or failing so, yet that I put the Moor
At least into a jealousy so strong
That judgment cannot cure.”

Speaker:

Situation:

Significance:

Scene 3: The celebration begins and Iago's plan is set in motion. He encourages Cassio to drink because he knows it is his weakness. Then, he urges Roderigo to incite a fight with Cassio, which ultimately goes too far when Montano gets involved. Othello and Desdemona's honeymoon night is interrupted by screaming from the courtyard and Othello must intervene. He finds that his lieutenant is drunk and Montano is hurt, so he demotes him. Cassio turns to "honest Iago" to mourn the loss of his position and his damaged reputation. Iago gives Cassio advice to seek guidance from Desdemona.

5. “Not to-night, good Iago: I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking: I could well wish courtesy would invent some other custom of entertainment.”

Speaker:

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6. “You see this fellow that is gone before;
He is a soldier fit to stand by Caesar
And give direction: and do but see his vice;
'Tis to his virtue a just equinox,
The one as long as the other: 'tis pity of him.
I fear the trust Othello puts him in.
On some odd time of his infirmity,
Will shake this island.”

...

“And 'tis great pity that the noble Moor
Should hazard such a place as his own second
With one of an ingraft infirmity:
It were an honest action to say
So to the Moor.”

Speaker:

Situation:

Significance:

7. “I had rather have this tongue cut from my mouth
Than it should do offence to Michael Cassio;
Yet, I persuade myself, to speak the truth
Shall nothing wrong him.”

...

“But men are men; the best sometimes forget:
Though Cassio did some little wrong to him,
As men in rage strike those that wish them best,
Yet surely Cassio, I believe, received
From him that fled some strange indignity,
Which patience could not pass.”

Speaker:

Situation:

Significance:

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8. "Reputation, reputation, reputation! O, I have lost my reputation! I have lost the immortal part of myself, and what remains is bestial. My reputation, Iago, my reputation!"

Speaker:

Situation:

Significance:

9. "Our general's wife is now the general: may say so in this respect, for that he hath devoted and given up himself to the contemplation, mark, and denotement of her parts and graces: 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: this broken joint between you and her husband entreat her to splinter; and, my fortunes against any lay worth naming, this crack of your love shall grow stronger than it was before."

Speaker:

Situation:

Significance: