

William Shakespeare

Othello

KEY TO THE ACTIVITIES AND EXIT TEST

Shakespeare's Life

Page 7 – exercise 1

- False - We know few things about the life of William Shakespeare.
- True.
- False - He married a woman called Anne Hathaway.
- True.
- False - His plays were not published until after his death.
- False - The theatrical company, of which Shakespeare was part, built the Globe Theatre.
- False - Shakespeare was one of the few professional writers of his day who did not die a poor man.
- True.

Shakespeare's *Othello*

Page 10 – exercise 1

- 4th paragraph. Until now, Othello has concentrated all his efforts on being a great general and has, therefore, had no experience with love. This makes him very vulnerable to all the dangers of love, especially jealousy.
- 2nd paragraph. Although it is not

completely clear why Iago hates Othello, one reason seems to be that Cassio was appointed Othello's second in command instead of Iago. In addition, Iago also suspects that Othello had an affair with his wife.

- 1st paragraph. Shakespeare got his idea for Othello from a short story by the Italian writer Cinthio. This particular story tells of a white officer who destroys his Moorish captain by means of jealousy.
- 5th paragraph. Desdemona, like Othello, is simple and honest. She genuinely loves Othello and never understands why Othello becomes so jealous. Her love, though, does give her the courage to deceive her own father.
- 3rd paragraph. Othello is a noble Moor and a great general, but he is very naive and unsophisticated. He is also a foreigner in Venetian society and so an outsider. The fact that he is black and has a white wife excites disgust in both Iago and Brabantio, Othello's father-in-law.



KEY TO THE EXERCISES

Before you read

Page 12 - exercise 1

- True.
- False - Othello comes from a noble Moorish family. Traditionally speaking Moors came from N.W Africa.
- True.
- False - Iago is going to remain in the army and seek his revenge against Othello.
- False - Roderigo is in love with Desdemona.
- True.
- False - Desdemona has left her father's house to be with Othello.

CHAPTER ONE

Go back to the text

Page 18 - exercise 1

- They did not think that a Moor should be in command of the Venetian army.
- They like Othello because of his victory and they now remember that he comes from a noble family.
- Because Iago owes him some money, and since Iago has not been promoted he will not be able to pay Roderigo back.
- The army simply abandons them, and they die poor.
- Because Desdemona is in love with him.
- Because they want him to know that his daughter, Desdemona, has run away with Othello.
- He thinks that Roderigo has come to see Desdemona.
- With magic.

'I'll have him arrested for this!'

Page 19 - exercise 2

- I wonder what he'll do if she's not there. B.
- Brabantio will be angry when he finds that Desdemona has gone. B.
- He'll take his servants and search for Othello. B.
- You stay here, and I'll go to Othello. A.
- I'll pretend to be his friend. A.
- I'll have him arrested for this. A.

Page 19 - exercise 3

- I'll ask Othello to lead the Venetian troops.
- What are you going to do about the Turkish invasion?
- I am going to ask Othello to lead our troops.
- Are you certain that Othello will be a good leader for us?
- I am going to watch him carefully to be certain he doesn't make any mistakes.
- No, I will talk to him another time.

FCE

Page 20 - exercise 4

1B - 2B - 3D - 4B - 5A - 6C - 7C - 8B

Before you read

Page 21 - exercise 1

1A - 2B - 3C - 4C - 5B - 6B

CHAPTER TWO

Go back to the text FCE

Page 29 - exercise 1

A9 - B7 - C3 - D4 - E5 - F2 - G6
H1 - I8

'He must have used magic!'

Page 30 - exercise 2

- Othello must have fought very

well.

- b. Iago can't have been very rich.
- c. Roderigo must have trusted Iago.
- d. Othello can't know much about human nature.
- e. Desdemona must be a very loving person.
- f. The Duke must trust Othello.

Before you read

Page 31 - exercise 1

- 1. and 2. to 3. with 4. at 5. his
- 6. the 7. her 8. in 9. to 10. have
- 11. was 12. must 13. that
- 14. have 15. as 16. about
- 17. about 18. had 19. were 20. to

CHAPTER THREE

Go back to the text FCE

Page 37 - exercise 1

1c - 2a - 3c - 4c - 5b - 6d

FCE

Page 38 - exercise 2

- a. Iago deceived Roderigo.
- b. Brabantio thought that Desdemona behaved badly.
- c. Othello leaves Desdemona with Iago because he trusts him.
- d. According to Iago, Desdemona will soon tire of Othello.
- e. Desdemona must now obey her husband.
- f. I have arranged everything so that your voyage to Cyprus goes well.

'I might as well kill myself.'

Page 39 - exercise 3

- a. She might as well stay with Emilia.
- b. so they might as well talk about military affairs.
- c. so you might as well steal her from him now.

d. so you might as well come with me to Cyprus.

e. so I might as well read Othello.

THE FIRST LONDON THEATRES

Page 42 - exercise 1

- a. Plays were often performed in converted inns.
- b. The first theatre was built in 1576, and it was simply called the Theatre.
- c. Three thousand.
- d. Two, and sometimes three plays were performed each day.
- e. One English penny.
- f. Two English pennies.

Before you read

Page 43 - exercise 1

- a. False - Montano did not know how he was going to defend Cyprus against the Turks.
- b. True.
- c. True.
- d. True.
- e. False - Iago, Emilia and Desdemona were on the second ship.
- f. False - The two women travelled with Iago.
- g. True.
- h. False - She thinks he is a cruel husband.
- i. False - He never says nice things to Emilia.

CHAPTER FOUR

Go back to the text

Page 50 - exercise 1

- a. Some of the Turkish ships sank during a storm so the Turks returned home without attacking Cyprus.

b. Because he is so happy to see that they have arrived safely.

c. He treats her very badly.

d. Because of the stories he used to tell her. Yes, it is.

e. Because he is ugly. No, it isn't.

f. He wants to begin to make problems for Cassio and Roderigo, and he wants to keep Roderigo from asking for his money back.

g. He is going to tell Othello, or make Othello believe, that Cassio and Desdemona are in love.

The messenger said that...

Page 51 - exercise 2

- a. The man said that it was a ship from Venice.
- b. He said that a ship had just arrived from Venice.
- c. Montano said that Othello was a brave man and a good general.
- d. Desdemona said that Iago didn't understand women at all.
- e. Othello said that the Turkish fleet had been destroyed in the storm.
- f. Iago told him that Cassio would be on guard at the castle that night.

Summing it all up

Page 51 - exercise 3

A3 - 1. pretend 2. frantic 3. outrage
4. thrown

B2 - 1. father 2. grins 3. thieves
4. view

C6 - 1. fleet 2. storm 3. celebration
4. pick 5. quarrel

D4 - 1. rude 2. Cyprus 3. grief
4. sympathy 5. stole 6. drugs
7. suffering

E1 - 1. noble 2. Turks
3. second in command

4. owes 5. gets rid of

F5 - 1. duty 2. wrongly 3. deceived
4. Cassio

Who said what?

Page 53 - exercise 1

- a. O - He says this because the Turkish fleet has been sunk and he has a new wife.
- b. I - He says this to Cassio because he wants to get him drunk so that he will fight with Roderigo.
- c. C - He says this because he doesn't really want to drink anymore, since he knows drink has such a bad effect on him, but he doesn't want to offend the Cypriots either.
- d. C - He says this to show everyone that he is not drunk, but, of course, he is very drunk when he says it.
- e. I - He says this to Montano, the governor of Cyprus, while he is lying about Cassio so that Montano will not suspect that he is trying to destroy Cassio.
- f. R - He says this after he has provoked Cassio, and Cassio has begun to beat him with his sword.
- g. O - He says this after he has broken up the fight between Montano and Cassio because he wants to know the cause of their fighting.
- h. O - He says this to Iago whom he thinks is trying to protect Cassio.
- i. C - He says this after Othello has dismissed him from the army.

CHAPTER FIVE

Go back to the text FCE

Page 60 - exercise 1

1d - 2c - 3d - 4a - 5b

‘You’ll offend the people of Cyprus if you don’t drink a glass with them tonight.’

Page 61 - exercise 2

A.

- a. 7 - If Othello goes to prison, he will not be able to fight the Turks.
- b. 2 - If the storm gets worse, the Turkish ships will sink.
- c. 5 - If Iago helps Roderigo, Roderigo will give him his money.
- d. 6 - According to Brabantio, if Desdemona deceives her father, she will deceive her husband.
- e. 1 - If Roderigo comes to Cyprus, Iago will help him.
- f. 3 - If Iago makes Othello think that Cassio and Desdemona are in love, he will get Cassio’s job.
- g. 4 - If Othello thinks Cassio and Desdemona are in love, he will not be happy.

Page 62 - exercise 3

- a. If Othello wasn’t (weren’t) jealous, he wouldn’t be angry with Desdemona.
- b. If Othello wasn’t (weren’t) a great general, people would refer to him as a black pagan.
- c. If Cassio wasn’t (weren’t) drunk, he wouldn’t want to fight.
- d. If Desdemona wasn’t (weren’t) in love with Othello, she wouldn’t disobey her father.
- e. If the Duke didn’t need Othello to lead his army, he would put him in prison.
- f. If Othello had a lot of/more experience with women, he would understand the power of jealousy.

Who said what and why?

Page 63 - exercise 4

I10 - O3 - C7 - B9 - B5 - D1 - I8

I6 - B2 - O4

Before you read

Page 64 - exercise 1

1. thinking about
2. At last
3. to arrange
4. sure
5. promised
6. replied
7. think again about
8. Come back
9. went for a walk
10. forgive him
11. a pity
12. offend
13. people
14. dismiss you

CHAPTER SIX

Go back to the text

Page 70 - exercise 1

- a. To arrange an interview with Desdemona.
- b. He says that Emilia, his wife, will certainly help Cassio.
- c. Because Desdemona will then talk about Cassio to Othello, and Iago will make Othello think that she does this because she is in love with Cassio.
- d. In the city.
- e. No, she is with Emilia.
- f. Because he would offend the Cypriots.
- g. He runs away because he is ashamed of his drunken behaviour.
- h. No, not at all.

- i. She reminds him of how Cassio always spoke in his favour when they went to Desdemona’s father’s house.
- j. He makes Othello think that Cassio has always been in love with Desdemona and that is why he went to her father’s house.

Page 70 - exercise 2 (Sample answer) Cassio and Desdemona meet in town but she is not alone—she is with Emilia. While they are talking Othello and Iago appear. Cassio runs away because he is ashamed of his drunken behaviour. So, Iago uses this opportunity to make Othello doubt Cassio.

Although Desdemona tries to convince Othello that Cassio is his good friend, Othello tells her that he can’t offend the Cypriots by giving Cassio his job back too soon. Iago makes Othello suspicious of Cassio’s visits to Desdemona’s house and he makes Othello doubt Desdemona. Since Othello is so naive and trusting, he becomes very confused.

‘He used to come with you to my father’s house’

Page 71 - exercise 3

- a. Brabantio used to consider Desdemona a good daughter.
- b. Iago didn’t use to hate Othello so much.
- c. The Venetians didn’t use to think that Othello should be in charge of the army.
- d. Desdemona used to listen to Othello’s sad stories.
- e. Before he met Desdemona, Othello didn’t use to think about love.
- f. Othello didn’t use to doubt Cassio’s loyalty.

Page 72 - exercise 1 FCE

**1C - 2A - 3D - 4D - 5B - 6B - 7B
8A - 9D**

CHAPTER SEVEN

Go back to the text

Page 79 - exercise 1

- a. True.
- b. False - She found the handkerchief that Othello had given to Desdemona.
- c. False - He wants it so that he can convince Othello that Desdemona and Cassio are having a love affair.
- d. True.
- e. True.
- f. True.
- g. True.
- h. False - He wants to know if Desdemona gave it to Cassio.

What was that director?

Page 79 - exercise 2

1. P R O O F
2. T O R T U R E D
3. C A S S I O
4. R O U G H L Y
5. V E N I C E
6. W I T C H
7. D E C E I V E
8. L I E
9. F O O L I S H
10. D E E P L Y
11. E A S E

Summing it all up

Page 80 - exercise 3

1C - 2A - 3B

Before you read

Page 82 - exercise 1

1b - 2a - 3b - 4b - 5a - 6b

CHAPTER EIGHT

Go back to the text

Page 88 - exercise 1

- a. He says that he will ask Cassio about Desdemona.
- b. Since Othello cannot hear Iago's questions, he will believe that Cassio is talking about Desdemona and not about Bianca.
- c. Iago tells Lodovico that Othello is behaving strangely.
- d. Othello's dismissal of Cassio.
- e. She is very shocked.

'He asked me if Othello had gone mad'

Page 88 - exercise 2

- a. She wondered if they had laughed a lot.
- b. He wondered what kind of wife she was.
- c. He wanted to know if they had whispered.
- d. She asked him what she had done.
- e. He asked me to tell him if they had held hands.
- f. She wanted to know why he was angry with her.
- g. He asked me to tell him who had dropped the handkerchief.
- h. They wanted to know what had destroyed Othello.

What do you think?

Page 89 - exercise 3

Desdemona (Sample answer)
trusting, loving, affectionate, determined, ingenuous

Class discussion

Othello (Sample answer)

brave, trusting, naive, loving, faithful

Class discussion

Page 89 - exercise 4

(Sample answer)

Dear Miss Lonely Hearts,
I am writing to ask for your help and advice. My husband, the great general Othello, has changed. For example, one day he returned home and he looked rather ill. I offered to wrap my handkerchief around his head, but he refused. Then, later on, he wanted me use a handkerchief which a witch had given to his Mother, and I couldn't find it! He was very rude to me.

Also he fought with his good friend and second in command Cassio. When I speak to him about Cassio he gets angry with me and once he even hit me! I don't understand at all. I was sure he liked Cassio.

But I remember when we first met. He used to come to my father's house and tell me about the wars he had fought. The stories of his sufferings made me sad. I think that is why I first fell in love with him.

Then he was so kind and gentle.

Please help me,
Desdemona

THE PORTRAYAL OF OTHELLO

Page 93 - exercise 1

- a. The portrayal of the black hero Othello and the racism he experiences.
- b. They insult him by referring to his dark skin.
- c. He is a very dignified and self-assured general, but only a child when dealing with matters of the heart.
- d. Love changes his world, and, at first, he is incredibly happy.

- e. Because he had no experience of women or problems of love before meeting Desdemona.
- f. He makes Othello into a believable tragic hero.

Page 93 - exercise 2

- a. "Damned as thou art, thou has enchanted her..."
- b. "If it were now to die..."
- c. "Most potent, grave and reverend signors..."
- d. "When the blood is made dull with the act of sport..."
- e. Even now, now, very now, an old black ram..."

Before you read

Page 94 - exercise 1

1. worried 2. friend 3. matter
4. behaving 5. anything 6. shook
7. something 8. tonight 9. alone
10. Suddenly 11. husband 12. had
13. anything 14. something

CHAPTER SEVEN

Go back to the text

Page 101 - exercise 1

- a. She asks Emilia to ask her husband to come and talk to her.
- b. She asks him for advice about Othello.
- c. He tells her not to worry, and that Othello is only worried about the Duke's orders to go back to Venice, and the evening with Lodovico.
- d. He promises her that he will talk to Othello about her.
- e. Lodovico.
- f. Because Iago has taken his money and jewels but Roderigo is still not with Desdemona.
- g. He tells him that Othello will

leave Cyprus with Desdemona unless Roderigo kills Cassio.

- h. Because Iago had promised Othello that he would kill Cassio, and then Iago can kill Roderigo as well.
- i. At night in front of/near Bianca's house.
- j. Roderigo wounds Cassio.
- k. Because he thinks Iago is keeping his promise to kill Cassio.
- l. Iago does.

Page 101 - exercise 2

(Sample answer)

Desdemona is desperate so she asks Emilia to tell Iago to come and talk to her. When Iago comes to see Desdemona, she explains her problem with Othello. She then asks him to tell Othello that she loves him. Iago tells her that he will tell him and that she shouldn't worry so much because Othello is just worried about his evening with Lodovico.

Iago, however, has his own problems. Roderigo had given him money and jewels to win Desdemona, but now he wants his money and jewels back. So Iago thinks quickly and tells Roderigo that although Desdemona loves him, she is leaving Cyprus with Othello. The only way to prevent her from going is to kill Cassio. This is a lie, Iago only wishes to eliminate both Roderigo and Cassio at the same time.

That evening Iago and Roderigo hide outside Cassio's girlfriend's house. When they hear him coming Roderigo jumps out and attacks him. During the fight Cassio is wounded, and shouts 'Murder, murder!'. When Othello hears this he is happy

because he thinks that Iago has kept his promise to murder Cassio. However, Iago is not yet out of danger because both Cassio and Roderigo are lying on the ground wounded. Then, before anybody else arrives on the scene, Iago pulls out his sword and kills Roderigo.

What do you think?

Page 102 - exercise 3

Iago (Sample answer)

cunning, intelligent, vengeful, proud, evil

Class discussion

Page 102 - exercise 4

Your Highness,
I am writing to you about my husband Iago. I am afraid that he is plotting against Othello in some way.

I believe that he is doing this because he has asked me to obtain various objects from my friend, Desdemona. He particularly wanted one of her handkerchiefs. I am not certain why, but knowing my husband, I am worried. The only thing I know for certain is that Iago was quite angry when Cassio became Othello's second in command. Iago has always thought that that position was his.

I would very much appreciate any help or guidance you could give me with regard to this matter.

Remember the situation is urgent!

Yours faithfully,
Emilia

FCE

Page 102 - exercise 5

1. finally
2. behaviour
3. suffering
4. carefully
5. departure
6. entertainment
7. wounded
8. jealousy

Before you read

Page 103 - exercise 1

- a. He strangles her.
- b. I'm innocent.
- c. Emilia.
- d. Because she found it and then gave it to Iago.
- e. Because he knows that he has killed Desdemona for no reason at all.
- f. They found some letters on Roderigo.
- g. He stabs himself.

Go back to the text

Page 110 - exercise 1

1a - 2b - 3d - 4c - 5c - 6a

Page 111 - exercise 2

1A - 2A - 3D - 4B - 5C - 6C - 7D - 8A

Lines from Shakespeare

Page 112 - exercise 4

- a) extract 2 - Othello
- b) extract 4 - Othello
- c) extract 1 - Brabantio
- d) extract 5 - Othello
- e) extract 3 - Iago
- f) extract 7 - Othello
- g) extract 6 - Othello

Page 115 - exercise 5

1e - 2b - 3d - 4a - 5c - 6g - 7f

Focus on the context

1 Answer the following questions.

- a. Where was William Shakespeare born?
- b. Who did he marry when he was eighteen?
- c. In which city did he become an actor in a company called The Lord Chamberlain's Men?
- d. Which famous theatre did this theatrical company build?
- e. When did Shakespeare die?

SCORE: /5

Focus on the story

FCE

1 Read the summary of *Othello* below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example: (0) didn't

The story starts in Venice and is about an army general called Othello. Two men called Iago and Roderigo (0) like Othello. One night they told Brabantio that his daughter, Desdemona, was with Othello. Brabantio was very angry and searched (1) Othello. When he found him, he asked the Duke to punish Othello for stealing his daughter. Othello told them that he had married Desdemona. The Duke's servants brought Desdemona forward and she admitted that she had become Othello's (2) The Duke then told Othello to sail to Cyprus that night to defend the island from the Turks. Desdemona was to follow on another ship (3) Iago. Roderigo, (4) was also in love with Desdemona, was very unhappy. Iago told him to go to Cyprus with him, telling him that he still had a chance with Desdemona. Desdemona travelled to Cyprus with Iago and his wife, Emilia. (5) they arrived, Iago started planning how to destroy Othello. He decided to make Othello believe that Desdemona and Cassio (Othello's second in command) (6) in love. That night while everyone was celebrating because the Turkish fleet had been destroyed, Iago managed to persuade Cassio to drink a lot of wine. Cassio got very drunk. When Cassio left, Roderigo, who (7) been told by Iago to wait outside, wouldn't let him past. Cassio drew his sword and attacked Roderigo. Othello was told about the fight and dismissed Cassio from his service. Cassio turned to Iago for help. Iago suggested talking (8) Desdemona who would surely change Othello's mind. The following morning, Cassio spoke to Desdemona but when he saw Othello and Iago approaching, he ran away. Iago talked to Othello about this and slowly Othello began to (9) doubts about Desdemona and started to feel jealous. When he arrived home he was tired and confused. Desdemona wanted

to tie a handkerchief around his head but he refused. Desdemona dropped the handkerchief, (10) Emilia found and gave to Iago. Iago decided to put it in Cassio's house and then told Othello he had (11) Cassio with it. This was proof to Othello that his wife was unfaithful. When Othello overheard Cassio and Iago talking about Cassio's girlfriend, Bianca, he thought they were discussing Desdemona and he (12) to kill her for betraying him. Othello argued with Desdemona, who didn't understand the change in his behaviour. Meanwhile, Roderigo was still unhappy that Desdemona hadn't (13) in love with him. Iago told him he would have to kill Cassio. Roderigo went to do so, but only managed to injure him. Iago saw the scene and killed Roderigo. Othello, who was sure that Cassio was dead, returned to the castle, (14) he killed Desdemona. Emilia entered the room and suddenly understood the (15) She told Othello that Iago had lied to him and that Desdemona had been innocent. Othello realised he had been betrayed by a man he thought had been his friend, and stabbed himself.

SCORE: /15

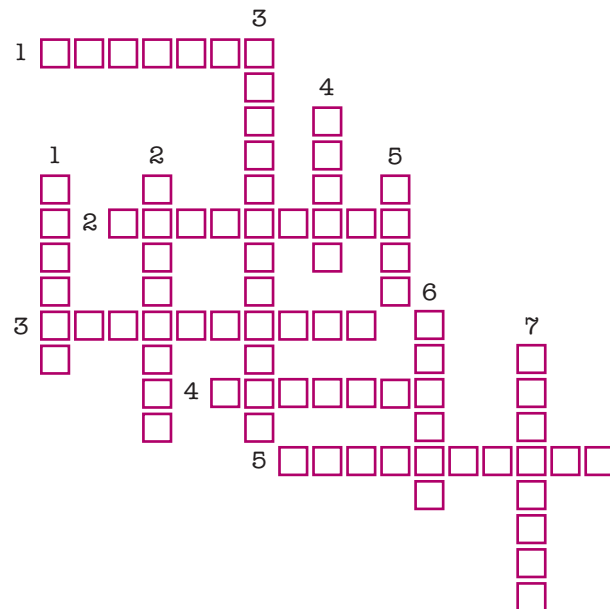
2 Complete the crossword.

ACROSS:

- Othello came from a noble, family.
- Brabantio's daughter.
- Othello killed his wife because he believed she was
- Iago's plan was to make Othello
- Because of Iago's insinuations, Othello began to have about his wife.

DOWN:

- The island where the action took place.
- Othello asked Iago for proof of Desdemona's
- The small object which caused big problems.
- When Iago said he had seen Cassio with the object in 3 Down, Othello knew he had the he wanted.



Focus on the context:

- In Stratford-upon-Avon.
 - Anne Hathaway.
 - London.
 - The Globe Theatre.
 - On 23rd April 1616.

- who
- When
- were
- had
- to
- have
- which
- seen
- decided
- fallen
- where
- truth

Focus on the story:

- for
 - wife
 - with

2.

