

***Othello* by William Shakespeare**

English Language Arts, 10th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

As the play opens, Venice is threatened by war with the Turks for control of the island of Cyprus. Othello, a Moor, is employed to command the Venetian troops and is housed at the home of a leading senator, Brabantio. There he falls in love with the senator's daughter, Desdemona, who returns his love. In the meantime, Othello names Cassio lieutenant instead of Iago who feels he should have been the appointee. The rest of the play is concerned with Iago's plot to destroy the Moor and in so doing, he plants seeds of suspicion in Othello that cause him to believe that his beloved wife has been unfaithful.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Environment and Identity**
 - Essential Question: "How do adversity and environment influence an individual's behavior and identity?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RL.10.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development. RL.10.2
- Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. RL.10.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RL.10.4
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. RL.10.5
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature. RL.10.6
- Analyze and evaluate the representation of a subject or a key scene in multiple mediums-- including media, artistic, and other visual formats. RL.10.7
- Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work. RL.10.9
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.10.12