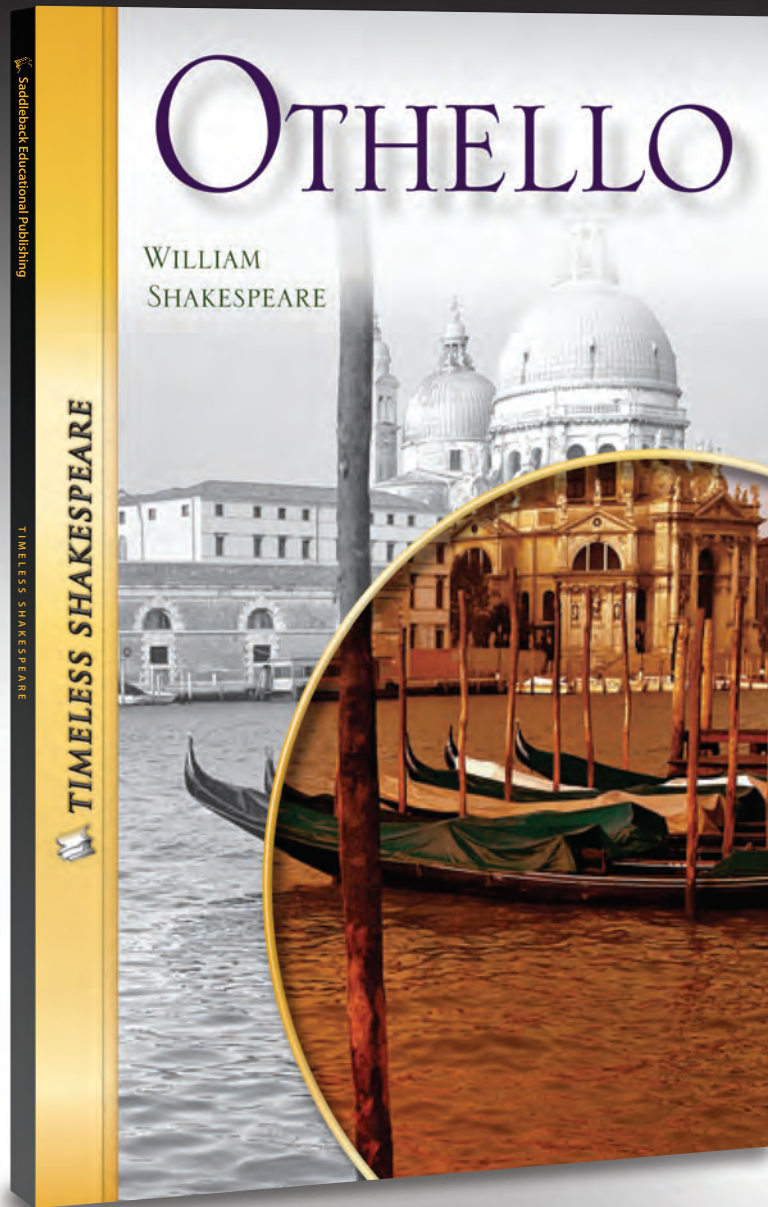




TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

STUDY GUIDE



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TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

NOTES TO THE TEACHER

THE PROGRAM

Timeless Shakespeare were expressly designed to help students with limited reading ability gain access to some of the world's greatest literature. While retaining the essence and stylistic "flavor" of the original, each *Timeless Shakespeare* has been expertly adapted to a reading level that never exceeds grade 4.0.

An ideal introduction to later, more in-depth investigations of the original works, *Timeless Shakespeare* utilize a number of strategies to ensure the involvement of reluctant readers: airy, uncomplicated page design, shortened sentences, easy-reading type style, elimination of archaic words and spellings, shortened total book length, and handsome illustrations.

THE STUDY GUIDES

The *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guides* provide a wealth of reproducible support materials to help students extend the learning experience. Features include critical background notes on both the author and the times, character descriptions, chapter summaries, and seven "universal" exercises which may be used to follow up the reading of any *Timeless Shakespeare* novel or play.

In addition to the universal exercises, 27 title-specific exercises are included to review, test, and enrich students' comprehension as well as their grasp of important vocabulary and concepts. All reproducible, the worksheets provided

for Shakespeare's plays are designed to be used act-by-act as the student's reading of the play proceeds. Several exercises are provided for each act. One always focuses on key vocabulary. Others include a simple comprehension check and treatment of an important literary concept such as character analysis, point of view, inference, or figurative language. A three-page final exam is also included in every *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guide*.

USING THE STUDY GUIDES

Before assigning any of the reproducible exercises, be sure each student has a personal copy of the *Glossary* and the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times*. Students will need to be familiar with many of the literary terms in order to complete the worksheets. Obviously, the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times* lend themselves to any number of writing, art, or research projects you may wish to assign.

The title-specific exercises may be used as a springboard for class discussions or role-playing. Alternatively, you may wish to assign some exercises as homework and others as seatwork during the closing minutes of a class period.

All exercises in this Guide are designed to accommodate independent study as well as group work. The occasional assignment of study partners or competitive teams often enhances interest and promotes creativity.

FACTS ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

(1564–1616)

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the finest poet and playwright who ever lived. Yet he was the son of illiterate parents and never attended college!

Much of this remarkable man's life is shrouded in mystery. He had been dead almost a hundred years before anyone wrote a short account of his life. But we do know that his mother, Mary Arden, was the daughter of a prosperous farmer. His father, John Shakespeare, was a successful glovemaking who also traded in wool, hides, and grain. They lived in an English market town called Stratford-on-Avon, where William was born in 1564. Their house still stands.

Until the age of 13 or 14, Shakespeare probably attended the Stratford grammar school where he read the great Latin classics of Cicero, Virgil, and Seneca. Some stories say that he had to leave school early because of his father's financial difficulties. But there is no official record of his life until 1582, when he married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18. By 1585, he and Anne had three children. No one knows for

sure what happened to him during the next seven years, although one account says that he was a schoolmaster. In 1592, however, records reveal that he was working in London as both an actor and a playwright. By that year, he had published two popular poems and written at least three plays.

Records from various sources show that Shakespeare became wealthy. In 1597, he bought one of the grandest houses in Stratford. (It had 10 fireplaces!) The next year he bought 10 percent of the stock in the handsome Globe Theater and a fine house in London. His artistic life was very busy and productive. His theatrical company, known as the King's Men, presented a variety of plays, week after week. It is thought that he rehearsed in the mornings, acted in the afternoons, and wrote at night.

After 1612, he spent most of his time in Stratford with his family. He died there, at the age of 52, on April 23, 1616. The tomb of the great literary genius still stands at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.

FACTS ABOUT THE TIMES

In 1564, when Shakespeare was born...

About 100,000 people lived in London; the horsedrawn coach was introduced in England; the great Italian sculptor and painter, Michelangelo, died; an outbreak of plague killed more than 20,000 Londoners.

In 1616, when Shakespeare died...

Sir Walter Raleigh began his search for El Dorado; tobacco was becoming a popular crop in Virginia; Pocahontas died; the Catholic church forbade Galileo from conducting any further scientific investigations.

OTHELLO

FACTS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

Duke of Venice

Brabantio, Desdemona's father, a senator

Gratiano, Brabantio's brother; a noble Venetian

Lodovico, a relative of Brabantio; a noble Venetian

Othello, a noble Moor in the military service of Venice

Cassio, Othello's honorable lieutenant

Iago, Othello's ensign; a villain

Roderigo, an easily fooled young

gentleman

Montano, the governor of Cyprus before Othello

Clown, Othello's servant

Desdemona, Brabantio's daughter; Othello's fair young bride

Emilia, Iago's wife

Bianca, a prostitute

Gentlemen, sailors, officers, messenger, herald, musicians, servants, and senators (signiors)

SUMMARIES BY ACT

ACT 1

Iago is angry because Othello has picked Cassio as his lieutenant. He tells Roderigo that he will get back at Othello for this. Iago has the idea of waking up Desdemona's father and telling him that his daughter and Othello have run off. When the enraged Brabantio finds out that Othello and Desdemona are married, he accuses Othello of having used drugs to cast a spell on her. Forced to defend himself, Othello describes how the love between him and Desdemona had grown. In Brabantio's presence, Desdemona backs up his story and declares her loyalty to her husband. Othello must leave for Cyprus to defend the island against the Turks, and Desdemona promises to join him. Then Iago describes his evil plan: He will make Othello jealous by suggesting that Desdemona has been unfaithful.

ACT 2

Othello, Iago, Desdemona, and Cassio arrive in Cyprus via separate ships during a storm. The storm has destroyed the Turks' ships, so the war Othello plans to fight is over. Iago begins to carry out his evil plan by suggesting to Roderigo that Desdemona is in love with Cassio. Roderigo, in love with her himself, agrees to help discredit Cassio by trying to provoke him to anger. That night, Iago makes sure that Cassio drinks too much wine, and Roderigo provokes the drunken Cassio to a fight. Othello finds out about it, and Iago claims that it was Cassio's fault. Cassio is dismissed as Othello's lieutenant. Distressed over his loss of reputation, Cassio talks to Iago, who suggests that he seek help from Desdemona. Cassio agrees to do this. Iago is delighted because he plans to make it appear to Othello that Cassio and Desdemona have fallen in love.

ACT 3

Desdemona agrees to help Cassio. As she begins her campaign to get Othello to restore Cassio to his position, Iago continues suggesting to Othello that Desdemona and Cassio are carrying on an affair. Emilia picks up a handkerchief belonging to Desdemona. Emilia doesn't know why Iago had asked her to steal it, but she gives it to him. Iago plans to put the handkerchief in Cassio's room. When Othello tells Iago he needs proof of Desdemona's infidelity, Iago says that he saw Cassio wipe his beard with Desdemona's handkerchief. Later, when Othello asks about the handkerchief, Desdemona changes the subject to talk about Cassio and his position. Now convinced of her infidelity, Othello leaves in anger. Cassio visits Bianca and asks her to copy the embroidery on the handkerchief he has found in his room.

ACT 4

Iago suggests that Othello hide and observe a conversation between him and Cassio. When Cassio comes to see Iago, Iago lowers his voice and mentions Bianca. After that, Othello thinks everything that Cassio disrespectfully says about Bianca, is being said about Desdemona. Bianca is angry because she now realizes the handkerchief belongs to another woman. After Cassio and Bianca leave, Othello declares that he will have to kill Desdemona for her infidelity. Representatives of the duke arrive from Venice with a letter. The duke wants Othello to return to Venice and let Cassio take his place in Cyprus. Othello accuses Desdemona of infidelity to her face, and she tearfully

denies it. Roderigo complains to Iago that he's getting nowhere with Desdemona, despite all the jewels he's given to Iago to pass on to Desdemona. Iago tells Roderigo that he must kill Cassio. That way, Othello and Desdemona will have to stay in Cyprus, and Roderigo can continue to court Desdemona. Desdemona and Emilia talk about infidelity, and Desdemona says that she wouldn't do such a thing "even for the whole world."

ACT 5

The evil Iago wants both Cassio and Roderigo dead. That way, Cassio won't be able to reveal Iago's lies, and Iago can keep all of Roderigo's gifts for Desdemona. Cassio and Roderigo injure each other in a duel, and Iago sneakily then stabs both of them, killing Roderigo. Othello accuses Desdemona of adultery and smothers her. Emilia enters, saying that Roderigo has been killed by Cassio, who is still alive. Desdemona, barely alive, says her last words to Emilia, not blaming Othello for her death. Othello admits he killed her, saying he had proof of her adultery from Iago. Emilia yells for help, and Iago and some others enter. When Othello names the handkerchief as evidence, Emilia tells the truth about it. Iago then stabs Emilia and runs away. A few others run after Iago, leaving Othello and the dying Emilia alone. She tells him that Desdemona loved him and was always faithful. When Iago is caught, he is brought back to Othello's house, along with Cassio. Othello stabs Iago but fails to kill him. Soon after, he stabs and kills himself. Cassio takes over as the ruler of Cyprus and announces plans for Iago's punishment.

TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

LITERARY GLOSSARY

aside lines spoken by an actor that the other characters on stage supposedly cannot hear; an aside usually shares the character's inner thoughts with the audience

Although she appeared to be calm, the heroine's aside revealed her inner terror.

backstage the part of the theater where actors prepare to go onstage, where scenery is kept, etc.

Before entering, the villain impatiently waited backstage.

cast the entire company of actors performing in a play

The entire cast must attend tonight's dress rehearsal.

character a fictional person or creature in a story or play

Mighty Mouse is one of my favorite cartoon characters.

climax the outcome of the main conflict of a play or novel

The outlaw's capture made an exciting climax to the story.

comedy a funny play, film, or TV show that has a happy ending

My friends and I always enjoy a Jim Carrey comedy.

conflict the struggle between characters, forces, or ideas at the center of a story

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde illustrates the conflict between good and evil.

conclusion the resolution of all plot conflicts, bringing a story to a close

That play's conclusion was very satisfying. Every conflict was resolved.

dialogue words spoken by the characters in a novel or play

Amusing dialogue is an important element of most comedies.

drama a story, usually not a comedy, especially written to be performed by actors in a play or movie

The TV drama about spies was very suspenseful.

event something that happens; a specific occurrence

The most exciting event in the story was the surprise ending.

figurative language colorful wording not meant to be taken literally, but to form a colorful, sharp picture in the mind

A "screaming" headline may be set in large type, but it makes no sound at all.

introduction a short reading that presents and explains a novel or play

The introduction to *Frankenstein* is in the form of a letter.

motive the internal or external force that makes a character do something

What was that character's motive for telling a lie?

PRE-READING

NAME _____

DATE _____

Read the Introduction at the front of *Othello*.

1. *Othello* is set in the early 1600s. About how long ago is that? _____
2. What word or words in the Introduction suggest that this play is *not* a comedy? _____
3. After reading the Introduction, study the book's cover. Which character do you think is pictured in the *background*? _____
4. Othello himself is pictured in the foreground of the cover art. What does the expression on his face suggest? Does he look happy, sad, suspicious, surprised, weary, or confused? Explain your opinion.

5. Have you ever known a person who was jealous of someone else? What did that person do or say that showed jealousy?

6. Suppose a co-worker got a job promotion you were *sure* that you would get. How would you feel? What, if anything, might you do about it?

7. The world has changed greatly in the past 400 years. Do you think human emotions have changed, too? Explain your reasoning.

NAME _____

DATE _____

Circle a letter to answer each question.

1. Iago said that he “must make a show of service” to Othello. What did he mean?
 - a. become Othello’s servant
 - b. pretend to be loyal
 - c. show off his abilities

2. Roderigo warned Brabantio that the “devil” could make him a grandfather. Who was he calling the “devil”?
 - a. Othello
 - b. the duke
 - c. Cassio

3. Brabantio lit a candle to carefully search his household. Why did he do that?
 - a. to see if he’d been robbed
 - b. to find Iago’s hiding place
 - c. to look for Desdemona

4. What did Othello admit to the duke?
 - a. that he didn’t deserve honors
 - b. that he’d married Desdemona
 - c. that Cassio was his lieutenant

5. How did Desdemona react when Othello told her the story of his life?
 - a. She was impressed.
 - b. She was disgusted.
 - c. She was bored.

6. What convinced Brabantio to drop his charges against Othello?
 - a. the duke’s order
 - b. Desdemona’s love for Othello
 - c. Iago’s hatred of Desdemona

7. When Othello went off to war, where did Desdemona go?
 - a. to stay with Iago
 - b. back to her father’s house
 - c. to the duke’s castle

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. Find and circle the hidden vocabulary words from Act 1. Words may go up, down, across, backward, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| __ INTENTION | __ REVENGE |
| __ ENSIGN | __ COUNSEL |
| __ RANK | __ WOO |
| __ PAGANS | __ VIRTUE |
| __ LODGING | __ TORMENT |
| __ FLEET | __ WITNESS |

H	T	E	O	L	L	O	D	G	I	N	G
D	O	R	A	Y	M	R	A	E	S	E	H
A	R	I	N	T	W	H	A	W	N	T	S
H	M	E	L	E	S	N	U	O	C	E	U
S	E	D	V	O	T	B	I	O	E	M	A
S	N	Y	A	E	L	T	O	P	N	G	Y
S	T	E	A	S	N	K	N	A	R	A	G
E	S	O	N	E	S	G	I	G	N	H	T
N	T	E	T	K	I	C	E	A	H	E	E
T	N	N	W	S	I	T	H	N	D	I	E
I	I	A	N	S	O	M	O	S	N	E	L
W	S	E	U	T	R	I	V	N	T	H	F

B. Now complete each sentence with one or more of the hidden words.

1. Someone who gives you _____ is offering advice.
2. _____ are those people who have no religion.
3. The moral quality of goodness is called _____.
4. An _____ is an officer of the lowest _____.
5. You are in _____ if you have great mental or bodily pain.
6. A _____ is a temporary place to stay.
7. If you plan to punish someone for harming you, your _____ is to get _____.
8. To _____ a woman, a man dates or courts her to win her love.
9. A _____ is a group of warships under one command.