

**Worksheet 9 – Act 2, Scene 1: Othello arrives... and Iago plots**

**Review: Lecture 8**

- ✓ How does Cassio's attitudes to women differ from Iago's in Act 2, Scene 1?

**Recall: Lecture 9**

**Complete this section after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.**

1. Which two of the below are not quotations from Iago in Act 2, Scene 1?
- a) Knavery's plain face is never seen, till used
  - b) Base men being in love have then a nobility in their natures more than is native to them
  - c) Smile and smile and be a villain
  - d) Villainous thoughts!
  - e) Fie upon thee, slanderer!
  - f) With as little a web as this will I ensnare as great a fly as Cassio

Bonus point: Which characters do say these two quotations?

**Analysis**

2. What is the significance of the imagery used in this section of Act 2, Scene 1? What does it reveal about the characters?

**Othello.** I cannot speak enough of this content;  
It stops me here; it is too much of joy:  
And this, and this, the greatest discords be  
[Kissing Desdemona]  
That e'er our hearts shall make!

**Iago.** [Aside] O, you are well tuned now!  
But I'll set down the pegs that make this music,  
As honest as I am.

3. Look carefully at the conversation between Iago and Roderigo (lines 211-276, 2:48 – ). Locate four arguments that Iago uses to convince Roderigo that Desdemona is having an affair with Cassio. What plan does Iago suggest to convince Roderigo that will help him (Roderigo) to win the hand of Desdemona?

**Evaluation**

4. To what extent does the audience's relationship with Iago change in Act 2, Scene 1? Do they realise at this point that Iago is a villain? *Answer with an analytical paragraph, using quotations from the scene as evidence.*

## Glossary

- **Paradox** – a seemingly absurd statement, which when investigated is shown to contain some truth; or a seemingly logical statement, which is actually founded on illogical or self-contradictory reasoning.
- **Prating** – talking foolishly or at tedious length about something.
- **Intermediary** – a person who acts as a link between people; a go-between.
- **Disseminating** – spread information widely.
- **Egregiously** – very badly; shockingly.
- **Knavery** – dishonesty.