

## Worksheet 12 – Act 3, Scenes 1-3: The Morning After the Night Before

### Review: Lecture 11

In Lecture 11, Prof. McRae discussed the conversation between Iago and Cassio, in the aftermath of the drunken brawl.

- ✓ Complete this quotation by filling in the blank spaces:

#### Cassio

Reputation, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_! O, I have \_\_\_\_\_ my reputation! I have lost the \_\_\_\_\_ part of myself, and what remains is \_\_\_\_\_. My reputation, Iago, my reputation!

### Recall: Lecture 12

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

- At the opening of Act 3, Scene 1, who says that Othello likes music?
  - The musicians
  - Cassio
  - Desdemona
  - A clown

Bonus point: Why is this significant?

### Analysis

- Look again at the start of Act 3, Scene 3:
  - What does Desdemona promise to Cassio in this scene? (20-28)
  - How does she fulfill her promise in her conversation with Othello? (40-90)
  - Why does Othello not listen to her?
  - How do her solicitations take on more importance later in the scene?
- Prof McRae describes this line in Act 3, Scene 3 as the 'fulcrum' of the play:

#### Othello

Excellent wretch! Perdition catch my soul,  
But I do love thee! and when I love thee not,  
Chaos is come again.

- What is Othello saying in this line?
- Why does he call Desdemona a 'wretch'? What are the possible interpretations of this word?
- How might this line create a sense of dramatic irony for the audience?
- What does Prof. McRae mean by this line being the 'fulcrum' of the play?
- Do you agree with Prof. McRae's statement? Is there another possible turning point in the play?

### Evaluation

- 'If Desdemona had not tried to help Cassio, then the play would not end in tragedy.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? *Write your response as an analytical paragraph.*

## Glossary

- **Fulcrum** – the point against which a lever turns; a thing that plays a central or essential role in an activity, event, or situation.
- **Wretch** – someone in exile from their native country; an unfortunate person; a despicable person of bad character.
- **Perdition** – a state of complete ruin; (*in Christianity*) a state of eternal punishment in the afterlife for a sinful person.
- **Dramatic irony** – when the audience knows more information than a character, so the full meaning of that character's words or actions is clear to the audience but not the character themselves.