

# Othello

---

"O beware, my lord, of jealousy; it is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on."

*William  
Shakespeare*



# Shakespeare

---

Born 6 years into reign of Queen Elizabeth

Period of growth and relative stability

Sense of national greatness, question of succession

Prosperous parents, ambitious son

Attended grammar school - read classics

Left school, worked as apprentice to his father

Married Anne Hathaway and had three children

# Shakespeare

---

1585 - 1592 mystery - schoolteacher, tutor, actor?

By 1592 he was famous in London

Wrote almost 40 plays and many famous sonnets

Sophistication grew as his career progressed

"The towering achievement of Shakespeare's life can be found in four tragedies, Macbeth, Lear, Hamlet, and Othello, each so different in subject that they might have been written by different authors."

# O t h e l l o

---

Othello is about a man destroyed by love.

Othello loves Desdemona.

Iago is jealous of what Othello has.

Iago convinces Othello to doubt his wife's fidelity.

Mass mayhem ensues.





# Othello

---

Example of Aristotelian tragedy

- Small number of characters
- Focus on primary plot
- One focal theme = jealousy

One of Shakespeare's most popular plays, especially during times of rebellion and upheaval



# Othello

---

## Themes

- appearance vs. reality
- order vs. chaos
- good vs. evil
- jealousy
- pride
- honesty
- self-knowledge



# Othello

---

## Essential Questions

- What is the role of love/jealousy in our lives?
- How do others' stories compare to our own?
- How do stories reveal truth about human nature?
- How does manipulating language create meaning?
- How important is reputation?
- What factors amplify our insecurities?
- Do we define our reputations, or do others?

