

**Group A: Brabantio**

*Read the extract and discuss the questions.*

<p>Act 1, Scene 2.</p> <p>Having found Othello, Brabantio angrily accuses him of stealing his daughter.</p>	<p>Glossary</p> <p>where hast thou stowed    <i>where have you hidden</i></p> <p>enchanted    <i>put a spell on</i></p> <p>tender, fair    <i>young, beautiful/white</i></p> <p>opposite to    <i>opposed to</i></p> <p>shunned    <i>rejected</i></p> <p>wealthy curlèd darlings of our nation    <i>handsome young men of the city</i></p> <p>general mock    <i>universal scorn</i></p> <p>guardage    <i>guardianship of her father</i></p> <p>gross in sense    <i>blatantly obvious</i></p> <p>practiced on her with foul charms    <i>tricked her</i></p>
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- 75    O thou foul thief, where hast thou stowed\* my daughter?
- 76    Damned as thou art, thou hast enchanted\* her!
- 77    For I'll refer me to all things of sense,
- 78    If she in chains of magic were not bound,
- 79    Whether a maid so tender, fair\*, and happy,
- 80    So opposite to\* marriage that she shunned\*
- 81    The wealthy curlèd darlings of our nation\*,
- 82    Would ever have, t' incur a general mock\*,
- 83    Run from her guardage\* to the sooty bosom
- 84    Of such a thing as thou—to fear, not to delight.
- 85    Judge me the world if 'tis not gross in sense\*

86 That thou hast practiced on her with foul charms\*,

87 Abused her delicate youth with drugs or minerals

88 That weakens motion. I'll have 't disputed on.

*Discuss the questions:*

1. How is Brabantio feeling? How do you know?
  2. What does he accuse Othello of doing?
  3. Who did he expect Desdemona to marry?
  4. What language does he use to describe:
    - Desdemona
    - Othello?
  5. Compare the two descriptions.
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### **Role card**

You are **Brabantio**.

You don't think that the marriage should be allowed.

- Try to explain your opinion and to persuade Desdemona to leave Othello.
- You can also accuse Othello of stealing your daughter by witchcraft.
- Use your own language and language from the extract above.

**Group B: Desdemona**

*Read the extract and discuss the questions.*

<p>Act 1, Scene 3.</p> <p>Desdemona describes her feelings for Othello to the Duke.</p>	<p>Glossary</p> <p>violence <i>extreme strength of feeling</i></p> <p>storm of fortunes <i>disruption of my privileged life</i></p> <p>subdued / Even to <i>wholly conquered by</i></p> <p>visage <i>true face</i></p> <p>parts <i>qualities</i></p> <p>consecrate <i>devote</i></p> <p>If I be left behind / A moth of peace <i>If I were left at home uselessly</i></p> <p>The rites for which I love him are bereft me <i>I am separated from my husband</i></p> <p>a heavy interim shall support / By his dear absence <i>I'd be miserable without him</i></p>
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- 263 That I did love the Moor to live with him,
- 264 My downright violence\* and storm of fortunes\*
- 265 May trumpet to the world. My heart's subdued
- 266 Even to\* the very quality of my lord.
- 267 I saw Othello's visage\* in his mind,
- 268 And to his honours and his valiant parts\*
- 269 Did I my soul and fortunes consecrate\*.
- 270 So that, dear lords, if I be left behind
- 271 A moth of peace\* and he go to the war,
- 272 The rites for which I love him are bereft me\*,
- 273 And I a heavy interim shall support
- 274 By his dear absence\*. Let me go with him.

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*Discuss the questions:*

1. How does Desdemona feel about Othello? How do you know?
2. What imagery (descriptive language) does she use?
3. Look at I.270-4. What does Desdemona want to do, and why?
4. How does she describe Othello? Compare her description to Iago's in **Task 2 – A secret marriage**.

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### Role card

You are **Desdemona**.

You think that the marriage should be allowed.

- Try to persuade Brabantio that you love Othello.
- Explain how you fell in love with him.
- Use your own language and language from the extract above.

**Group C: Othello**

*Read the extract and discuss the questions*

<p>Act 1, Scene 3.</p> <p>Othello defends his marriage to the Duke and describes how he and Desdemona fell in love.</p>	<p>Glossary</p> <p style="text-align: right;">oft    <i>often</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">hair-breadth 'scapes    <i>hair-raising adventures</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">th' imminent deadly breach    <i>the dangerous gap in a fortification</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">taken by the insolent foe    <i>captured by the enemy</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">of my redemption thence    <i>how I bought my freedom</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">portance    <i>conduct</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">antres vast and deserts idle    <i>large caves and empty wildernesses</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">seriously incline    <i>listen attentively / lean in physically</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">pity    <i>feel strong emotions</i></p>
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- 142 Her father loved me, oft\* invited me,
- 143 Still questioned me the story of my life
- 144 From year to year, the battles, sieges, fortunes,
- 145 That I have passed.
- 148 [...] Wherein I spoke of most disastrous chances,
- 149 Of moving accidents by flood and field,
- 150 Of hair-breadth 'scapes\* i' th' imminent deadly breach\*,
- 151 Of being taken by the insolent foe\*
- 152 And sold to slavery, of my redemption thence\*
- 153 And portance\* in my traveler's history.
- 154 Wherein of antres vast and deserts idle\*,
- 155 Rough quarries, rocks, hills whose heads touch heaven
- 159 [...] these things to hear
- 160 Would Desdemona seriously incline\*.
- 172 [...] My story being done

173 She gave me for my pains a world of kisses.

174 She loved me for the dangers I had passed,

175 And I loved her that she did pity them\*.

176 This only is the witchcraft I have used.

*Discuss the questions:*

1. How did Brabantio *used to* feel about Othello?
  2. What has happened to Othello in his life?
  3. How does Desdemona respond to hearing Othello's life story?
  4. How do you feel about Othello after hearing his side of the story?
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### **Role card**

You are **Othello**.

You think that the marriage should be allowed.

- Try to persuade Brabantio that you love Desdemona.
- Remind Brabantio of the relationship you and he used to have.
- Use your own language and language from the extract above.

**Motion: Brabantio is a racist****Prosecution**

You have to persuade the judge that Brabantio is a racist.

Construct three key points and give evidence to support your view.

Key points:

1.

2.

3.

**Motion: Brabantio is a racist**

**Defence**

You have to persuade the judge that Brabantio is not a racist.

Construct three key points and give evidence to support your view.

Key points:

1.

2.

3.



**Motion: Brabantio is a racist****Final Prosecution**

Chairperson:

Spokesperson:

You have to persuade the judge that Brabantio is a racist.

Construct three key points and give evidence to support your view.

Key points:

1.

2.

3.

**Motion: Brabantio is a racist**

**Final Defence**

Chairperson:

Spokesperson:

You have to persuade the judge that Brabantio is not a racist.

Construct three key points and give evidence to support your view.

Key points:

1.

2.

3.