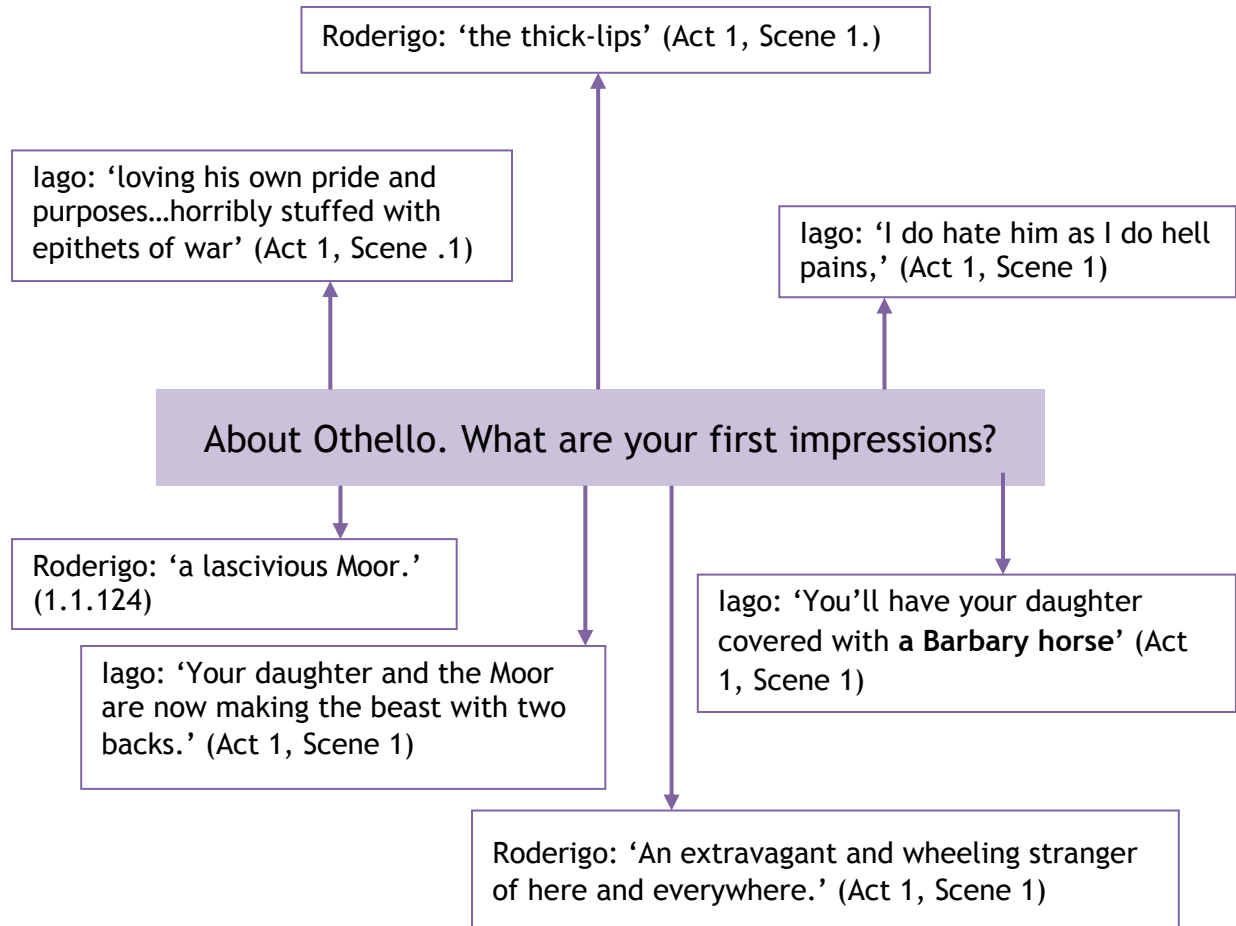


Task one

Before reading

Typically, for Shakespeare, we hear about the main character before we see him. How is Othello presented in the first scene of the play? Look at the map of quotations. Each one makes reference to Othello. Discuss each in detail and consider what conclusions an audience might draw about this man.



Task two

Read Act 1 Scene 1

What other references to Othello are made that weren't there? What do they contribute to your reading of him at the outset?

Task three

Looking ahead

Consider what Othello says about *himself* at the end of the play:

'...one that loved not wisely, but too well;
Of one not easily jealous, but being wrought,
Perplexed in the extreme; of one whose hand,
Like the base Judean, threw a pearl away
Richer than all his tribe.' (Act 5, Scene 2)

Does this match with your first impressions of him?