

# *Othello* by William Shakespeare

**“Beware of jealousy, my lord. It  
is the green-eyed monster  
which doth mock the meat on  
which it feeds.” Iago**

# William Shakespeare



Shakespeare's Home

- ❖ William Shakespeare
- ❖ 1564 – 1616
- ❖ Born in Stratford – upon –Avon, England
- ❖ Known as Bard of Avon
- ❖ Wrote 37 plays, 154 sonnets, various short poems

# Master of Tragedy



- ❖ 10 of Shakespeare's 37 plays were tragedies
- ❖ Created some of the most memorable characters in literature
- ❖ Almost 400 yrs. after his death, his plays are still the most widely performed



# Othello and Desdemona



- ❖ Theme of doomed lovers popular in Shakespeare's work
- ❖ Othello fulfilled the concept of classic Greek tragic hero
- ❖ Desdemona represented the innocent, proper female whose power lay in her beauty

# Iago



- ❖ Iago personifies evil in Othello
- ❖ He is considered by most critics and Shakespeare fans to be one of the most interesting characters ever written

# Conflict among 3 main characters

- ❖ Othello appoints Cassio as his lieutenant rather than appointing Iago, but Iago feels he deserves the honor.
- ❖ This exacerbates Iago's hatred towards Othello, a hatred Iago secretly feels because he suspects Othello has slept with his wife Emilia.
- ❖ Iago's goal is to turn Othello against his wife Desdemona and ruin his life as he believes Othello has ruined his.

# Secondary Characters

- The minor characters in Othello make important contributions to the plot and serve as pawns in Iago's revenge plan.



# Tragic Ending



- ❖ The jealousy ignited in Othello by Iago's subtle suggestions of Desdemona's infidelity inspired Othello to take the life of the woman he loved more than life itself
- ❖ As in most traditional tragedies, the tragic hero falls to ruin because of a character flaw, in Othello's case – jealousy.



- <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/search/assetDetail.cfm?guidAssetID=F612B81D-7E6A-42DC-AFAF-FE5D8A92D6C3>