

## Othello – Pre-Reading Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Prior to reading William Shakespeare’s play, *Othello*, please thoughtfully respond to the following questions:**

### **Theme #1: Interracial Relationships**

1. What is your personal attitude toward interracial relationships? Do you agree, disagree? Are you neutral to them? When responding to these questions, consider interracial relationships that you have witnessed.
2. What do you think that society’s perception is of interracial relationships?

### **Theme #2: Appearance vs. Reality**

1. Can we ever fully know the truth about a person?
2. Is it possible to know if someone is lying to us?
3. Why do you believe that humans suffer from not being able to judge between truth and falseness?
4. Can you think of a time when you truly believed that someone was being honest to you and in the end you realized that this person had deceived you? How did this make you feel? Looking back, were there signs that you missed which could have helped you to realize that this individual was deceiving you?

### **Theme #3: Jealousy**

1. Why do you think that jealousy is such a powerful emotion?
2. How does jealousy cause people to act “out of character”?
3. Can you think of a time when jealousy caused you to act in a manner that you later regretted? Explain this situation and explain how you wished you had handled it differently.

### **Additional Questions:**

1. What is meant by a character’s tragic flaw?
2. What do you know about the city of Venice?
3. What do you know about the city of Cyprus?
4. Do you know what the word “Moor” means? If not, what do you think it means?
5. Have you heard of Shakespeare’s play, *Othello*? If so, what do you know about it? If you have not heard about it what do you think it might be about based on the questions you have answered in this pre-reading activity?