

11 – IAGO'S MOTIVES

What are Iago's motives?

WHAT YOU NEED

- A piece of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to watch [this clip](#).
- A copy of Act 1 Scene 1, and Act 1 Scene 3, to read either on the page or onscreen.

ACTIVITY

- Familiarise yourself with Act 1 Scene 1, and write down any motives you find for Iago's intended behaviour to Othello. Why does he profess to 'hate' him?
- Watch Iago's soliloquy in Act 1 Scene 3 in performance [here](#).
- Read the speech and pick out any new motives we learn here. Do you believe Iago?
- Re-write the speech in the form of a text message to a close friend. Use your own words and think about how much detail you feel you need to go into.
- Imagine your message has been found by the authorities. Now justify your actions in a written statement.
- Analyse how easy this was to do. Reflect back on Iago's motives, and what you know about his actions in the play. Is Iago 'motiveless'? To what extent do you agree that his actions spiral out of control?

EXTENSION

- You receive the message from Iago. What would your reply be? Write it back. Are you for or against Iago's plot? Excited to see what happens? Or horrified already at this cold-hearted soldier?
- Repeat the same exercises on this page with Iago's soliloquy at the end of Act 2 Scene 1.