

14 - IAGO REELS IN OTHELLO

How does Iago finally convince Othello?

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 3 Scene 3 to read either on the page or onscreen.
- A small ball.

ACTIVITY

- Look at the duologue between Iago and Othello in Act 3 Scene 3, from Lines 90 - 117. (“Excellent wretch!” to “My lord you know I love you.”)
- Read the scene aloud and click your fingers each time a word is quickly repeated by either character? Which words are ‘passed’ between them to and fro? e.g.
 - IAGO: But for a satisfaction of my thought, No further harm.
 - OTHELLO: Why of thy ***thought*** Iago.
- Read the scene again, and this time throw or roll a ball from one hand to the other when it feels like either character is ‘**passing back the energy**’. Notice as you read whether you pass the ball whilst speaking a word, or after the sentence is over. Also notice when there are frenetic moments of back and forth, or moments of stillness.
- Ask yourself: How is Iago forcing Othello to ask questions? What is the main tactic Iago is using to get what he wants?
- Watch a later excerpt in the same scene [here](#).
- How ‘at ease’ is Iago with Othello? Does this deception seem to come naturally to him, or do we notice moments when he is ‘thinking on his feet?’

EXTENSION

- How sorry do you feel for Othello in this scene? We - the audience - are privy to Iago’s true intent. But, to what extent is Othello somewhat to blame? Identify some quotes which example Othello’s naivety.
- “Perdition catch my soul But I do love thee! And when I love thee not, Chaos is come again.” Notice how Chaos is capitalised. Who is Chaos? Research Greek mythology.