

18 - CASSIO STABBED / RODERIGO'S DEATH

How does Iago control the action?

WHAT YOU NEED

- A piece of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- Labels and a variety of objects to represent characters in the scene (e.g. counters, playing pieces etc)
- A copy of Act 5 Scene 1 to read either on the page or onscreen.

ACTIVITY

- Read Iago's aside at the start of Act 5 Scene 1. Make a bullet point summary of his thought process. What do he need to happen, and what is his ideal outcome?
- Create a model stage for you to plot the action of the scene. You decide! Suggestions could be to draw a rectangle on a piece of paper, to construct a 3D model box of the stage, or to use the whole of your room.
- Using any labelled objects, plot where the characters are on the stage during the scene and where their movements take them.
- Ask yourself: how well does Iago think on his feet, and how successfully he is able to steer the action?

EXTENSION

- What more should Iago have done to succeed? Make a new plan that might have worked, thinking about all the ways in which his plan failed and why. Using your new plan, think about how Iago might deliver this as an aside or soliloquy.
- If you have time, film the scene playing out. This might be as a stop motion or as a dramatic reading of your imagined plan.