

2 - THE STORY

What kind of journey does this play take the audience on?

WHAT YOU NEED

- A piece of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- (Optional: PostIT Notes)
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit [this page](#).

ACTIVITY

- Load this page on the Plot Overview from the RSC Learning Zone [here](#).
- Read through the 10 sections of the Plot Overview. Notice the new characters we are yet to meet.
- Click 'Test Yourself' and try and re-arrange the plot in the correct order.
- Imagine you are now a journalist from Venice, who is commissioned to write a short 150 word article summarising this story. What are the essential facts? Also notice when writing your article: is anything you are saying speculation? We can often base the retelling of stories on assumptions.
- The plot summary on this page is very straightforward. As a journalist, what more would you like to know to better report the story? Write these questions down.

EXTENSION

- For a more in-depth synopsis, take a look at this 'Scene-by-Scene' page on the RSC Learning Zone, [here](#).
- Browse the breakdown of each scene, potentially trying to find some answers to your questions from the above activity.
- Modern playwrights and screenwriters sometimes use what is known as a storyboard to 'see' the overall arc of their story. Using Post-it notes, summarise each scene into one short sentence, and lay out the play on a wall or board. Perhaps you may want to colour code the scenes depending on a particular theme or character thread that links them for you?
- Take a look at the Othello timeline on the RSC Learning Zone [here](#) and compare your scene titles with ours.
- Evaluate: Does even the act of writing a synopsis or scene breakdown involve artistic interpretation and/or bias from the author?