

 Refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

Act 4 scene 1

- ❖ How is Bianca described in this scene?
 - What does this tell you about her status?
 - What evidence is there for sexual double standards in this scene?
- ❖ Study Othello's speeches starting from 'I would have him nine years a-killing' until 'Cuckold me!' Make three lists of relevant words/phrases which show him as:
 - A man of unflinching determination
 - A man weakened by sorrow and great emotional loss
 - An angry man out for petty revenge
 - Which is the real Othello? Can we say for sure at this point?
- ❖ What techniques has Shakespeare used to build the audience's sense that the play will end disastrously?
 - Can we predict what Iago's fate will be at this point?

Act 4 scene 2

- ❖ Study Othello's speech starting from 'Had it pleased God..' until '.. Ay, here look grim as hell.'
 - In the first six lines, what kind of suffering does Othello say he'd prefer?
 - In the next three lines, what makes him suffer more?

- In the second half of the speech, what does he feel is the worst torment for him?
- How do the images in the last four lines show the terrible mental distress he is experiencing?
- Writing in role, prepare a short psychiatrist's report on the overall mental state of Othello by the end of this scene.

Act 4 scene 3

- ❖ Study Emilia's speech starting from 'Yes a dozen ..' until '.. their ills instruct us so.'
 - What complaints about husbands does Emilia list here?
 - What reasons does she give for husbands being unfaithful?
 - In what ways are wives similar to husbands, in her view?
- ❖ If Emilia believes that wives should have as much freedom as erring husbands, while Desdemona takes a very different view, what does that tell us about the differences between the two women and the state of their marriages?
- ❖ What is the dramatic purpose of this scene?