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Othello: (d)ii Female character assessments

Character statements

Desdemona	<p>Desdemona is not all sweetness and light. She tells Othello to woo her, marries against her father's wishes, flirts with Iago and Cassio, nags Othello, and even tells lies on her death bed.</p>
	<p>Desdemona's death can attributed to her innocence – she is too naïve to understand her husband's jealousy.</p>
Emilia	<p>An audience can never forgive Emilia for her betrayals – she tricks Desdemona over the handkerchief, is spiteful to Emilia, and threatens she would be unfaithful to Iago.</p>
	<p>Emilia shows her true dignity in standing up for Desdemona, even after Desdemona is dead, and when Emilia is putting her own life at risk. At this point in the play, she is the noblest character.</p>
Bianca	<p>Bianca has much in common with Roderigo – they are in love with someone who does not love them back.</p>
	<p>Shakespeare uses the character of Bianca to reveal the sexual hypocrisy of his era.</p>