

Othello

- Colour-coded language links blackness with evil, villainy, bestiality, moral corruption, death, and metaphorical darkness; as opposed to whiteness as female virtue, purity, innocence, beauty
- Othello is not a native of Venice; he would have been considered an 'alien' or 'stranger' in early modern England, indicating his foreign-born status; hence Shakespeare taps into contemporary anxieties over influx of foreigners displacing white English workers
- References to military conflicts in Rhodes and Cyprus highlight the ongoing colonial exploitation and territorial control exerted by European powers over these regions
- Anti-Black racism intersects with ageism around references to Othello as 'old black ram'; also intersects with disability and religion around Othello's epileptic seizure: Christian European writers tried to discredit Islam by linking accounts of Muhammad's seizures to demonic possession, or else faked performance of a spiritual, transcendent state.
- Ableist slurs about being 'mad'
- Cassio's inability to hold his liquor could be triggering for some around alcohol abuse
- Class resentments and disparities around Cassio being promoted over Iago
- Lots of misogynistic language, and undertow of emotional/physical abuse can be read in Iago and Emilia's relationship
- Iago's gaslighting of Othello