**Othello Terms**

**Please know the following terms. Please do not forget the “stuff you already probably know” terminology sheet as well.**

**aside** lines spoken by an actor that the other characters on stage supposedly cannot hear; an aside usually shares the character’s inner thoughts with the audience

Although she appeared to be calm, the heroine’s aside revealed her inner terror.

**Backstage** the part of the theater where actors prepare to go onstage, where scenery is kept, etc.

Before entering, the villain impatiently waited backstage.

**Cast** the entire company of actors performing in a play

The entire cast must attend tonight’s dress rehearsal.

**Character** a fictional person or creature in a story or play

Mighty Mouse is one of my favorite cartoon characters.

**Climax** the outcome of the main conflict of a play or novel

The outlaw’s capture made an exciting climax to the story.

**Comedy** a funny play, film, or TV show that has a happy ending

My friends and I always enjoy a Jim Carrey comedy.

**conflict** the struggle between characters, forces, or ideas at the center of a story

***Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*** illustrates the conflict between good and evil.

**Conclusion** the resolution of all plot conflicts, bringing a story to a close

That play’s conclusion was very satisfying. Every conflict was resolved.

**Dialogue** words spoken by the characters in a novel or play

Amusing dialogue is an important element of most comedies.

**drama** a story, usually not a comedy, especially written to be performed by actors in a play or movie

The TV drama about spies was very suspenseful.

**event** something that happens; a specific occurrence

The most exciting event in the story was the surprise ending.

**figurative language** colorful wording not meant to be taken literally, but to form a colorful, sharp picture in the mind

A “screaming” headline may be set in large type, but it makes no sound at all.

**introduction** a short reading that presents and explains a novel or play

The introduction to ***Frankenstein*** is in the form of a letter.

**motive** the internal or external force that makes a character do something

What was that character’s motive for telling a lie?

**Passage** a section of a written work, ranging from one line to several paragraphs

His favorite passage from the book described the fisherman’s childhood.

**playwright** the author of a play

William Shakespeare is the world’s most famous playwright.

**plot** the chain of events in a story or play that leads to its final outcome

The plot of that mystery story is filled with action.

**point of view** the mental position from which a character sees the events of the story unfold

The father’s point of view about elopement was quite different from the daughter’s.

**Prologue** an introduction to a play that comes before the first act

The playwright described the main characters in the prologue to the play.

**Quotation** a passage quoted; the exact words spoken by a character; the words set off by quotation marks

A popular quotation from ***Julius Caesar*** begins, “Friends, Romans, countrymen . . .”

**Role** the part that an actor performs in a play

Who would you like to see play the role of Romeo?

**Sequence** the time-order in which story events take place

Sometimes actors rehearse their scenes out of sequence.

**setting** where and when the story events take place

This play’s setting is New York in the 1940s.

**soliloquy** a speech in a play in which a character tells his or her thoughts to the audience, as if talking to himself or herself

One famous soliloquy is Hamlet’s speech that begins, “To be, or not to be . . .”

**Symbol** a person or thing that stands for, or represents, something else

In Hawthorne’s famous novel, the scarlet letter is a symbol for adultery.

**Theme** the central meaning of a play or novel; the main idea

Ambition and revenge are common themes in Shakespeare’s plays.

**Tragedy** a serious play with a sad ending

***Macbeth***, the shortest of Shakespeare’s plays, is a tragedy.

More Terms... I do believe that you may have heard of these before. If you have not, you need to read them and know these terms as well.

***Othello Terminology (2?)***

**allusion** a reference in one work of literature to a person, place, or event in another work of literature or in history, art, or music

Example: the band Veruca Salt is an allusion to the character Veruca Salt in the film

*Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.*

**analogy** an extended comparison showing the similarities between two things

Example: Juliet’s comparison of a rose and Romeo in her soliloquy

**antagonist** the character or force that works against the protagonist; introduces the conflict

**aside** words spoken by a character in a play, usually in an undertone and not intended

**blank verse** unrhymed iambic pentameter

**characterization** the personality a character displays; also, the means by which the author reveals that personality

**climax** the point of greatest emotional intensity, interest, or suspense in a narrative

**conflict** a struggle (between two opposing forces or characters)

**couplet** two consecutive lines of poetry that rhyme

Example: My only love, sprung from my only hate!

Too early seen unknown, and known too late!

**diction** a writer’s choice of words for clarity, effectiveness, and precision

**dramatic structure** the structure of a play

**epithet** a descriptive adjective or phrase used to characterize someone or something. (Peter *the Great*).

Example: Romeo! Humors! *Madman! Passion! Lover!* (II.i.7)

**figurative language** language that is not intended to be interpreted in a literal sense

**foil** a character who sets off another character by contrast

**foreshadowing** the use of hints or clues in a narrative to suggest what action is to come

**iambic meter** unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable

Example: ǎ gain

**iambic pentameter** five verse feet with each foot an iamb (a total of ten syllables)

**imagery** language that appeals to any sense (sight, hearing, taste, touch, or smell) or any combination of the senses

**irony** literary technique that portrays differences between appearance and reality

(dramatic irony; situational irony; verbal irony)

**Dramatic Irony**- when the reader/audience knows something that a character doesn’t

e.g. reader knows the ending of R&J from the prologue or Romeo confusing that he loves Tybalt (platonic love)

**Situational irony**- when the opposite of what one would expect to happen actually happens e.g. the ambulance hit me while I was out for a jog.

**Verbal irony**- occurs when there is a difference between what a character says and what another character understands/or what is meant e.g. sarcasm (Think Sheldon from Big Bang)

**metaphor** comparison between two unlike things with the intent of giving added meaning to one of them

**motivation** a reason that explains or partially explains why a character thinks, feels, acts, or behaves in a certain way (Motivation results from a combination of the characters personality and the situation to be dealt with.)

**protagonist** the main character in a play or story

**pun** the humorous use of a word or phrase to suggest to or more meanings at the same time

Romeo: The game was ne’er so fair, and I am **done**.

Mercutio: Tut! **Dun**’s the mouse, the constable’s own word!

If thou art **Dun**, we’ll draw thee from the mire. (I.iv.39-41)

**repetition** the return of a word, phrase, stanza form, or effect in any form of literature

(forms: alliteration; rhyme; refrain)

**monologue** a long, uninterrupted speech presented in front of other characters

**oxymoron** a figure of speech that combines apparently contradictory terms

“sweet sorrow”; “loving hate”

**personification** a figure of speech in which an animal, object, natural force, or idea is given a personality and described as human

**simile** a comparison made between two dissimilar things through the use of a specific word of comparison such as *like* and *as*

**soliloquy** a speech in which a character is *alone* on stage and expresses thoughts out loud

**sonnet** a fourteen-line lyric poem, usually written in iambic pentameter, that has one of several rhyme schemes. A sonnet form used by William Shakespeare is called the Shakespearean sonnet. It has three four-line units (quatrains) followed by a concluding two-line unit (couplet). The most common rhyme scheme for the Shakespearean sonnet is *abab cdcd efef gg.*

**symbol** any object, person, place, or action that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself—such as a quality, attitude, belief, or value.

**suspense** that quality of a literary work that makes the reader or audience uncertain or tense about the outcome of events

**theme** the central idea of a work of literature