*Othello* Act 4 Summary

* Iago continues to torture Othello with fake “evidence” of Desdemona’s unfaithfulness
* Lodovico (Venetian official and relative of the Duke) says Othello is needed back in Venice and that cassio is to take over for him in Cyprus
* Othello publicly strikes Desdemona, storms around in a jealous rage, and Lodovico is shocked at this change in Othello’s behavior.
* Othello questions Emilia about Desdemona and Emilia swears that she is faithful.
* Othello tells Desdemona that she’s a whore and she does not understand why.
* Iago urges Roderigo to kill Cassio, claiming that it is the only way to delay Desdemona’s leaving to go back to Venice.
* Emilia and Desdemona discuss marriage and infidelity. Desdemona argues that no woman would be unfaithful to a husband. Emilia argues that women have the same desires as men and that men often underestimate women. Emilia is ambitious, and says that she would consider cheating of it were for the “greater good” of the world, or to make her husband a monarch, etc. Desdemona has more faith in the goodness of men and husbands.

*Othello* Act 5 Summary

(Scene 1)

* Roderigo attacks Cassio, but fails to injure him, so Cassio strikes Roderigo and hurts him badly.
* Iago intervenes and stabs Cassio in the leg. When Othello hears Cassio cry out, he assumes that Iago has followed through with his orders to kill Cassio, and Othello heads off to murder Desdemona.
* Iago then kills the wounded Roderigo so that Roderigo can’t expose Iago.
* Iago accuses Bianca of being a whore and engineering the plot that led to Cassio’s injury.

(Scene 2)

* Othello kisses Desdemona before he wakes her, accuses her of infidelity and tells her to pray before he kills her. She protests that she’s innocent as he smothers her
* Emilia discloses the truth about the handkerchief and Othello realizes that Iago framed Cassio and Desdemona
* Othello tries to kill Iago but fails and Iago kills Emilia for speaking against him.
* Othello kills himself after realizing his error and what he has done
* Iago is taken away to be punished