

Othello



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

OTHELLO: REVENGE Of the many themes contained in this enchanting tale, like jealousy, honor and love, revenge is by far the most striking theme. Unlike love and honor, the desire for revenge is not restricted to Othello alone, but affects most of the cast of characters. How the passion for revenge inflames young and old, making them lose sight of reason is what strikes one most about this story.

The principal character, Othello, believing (wrongly) that he has been cuckolded by his wife Desdemona, feels that the only way he can defend his honor is by killing her. He also feels that by doing so, not only would he be redeeming his honor but would also be sending a message to others on the fate of women who betray their husbands. Similarly, Othello also feels revenged when, by injuring Iago, he condemns him to lead a life of pain and misery. Ultimately, though, when Othello realizes what he has done, he takes revenge on himself by committing suicide.

However, it is not Othello alone who is consumed by thoughts of revenge. The initiator is Iago, who by planting the seed of doubt in Othello's mind, destroys the bond of loving trust between Othello and his wife. The reason for this is that Iago feels slighted when he is overlooked for the appointment of Lieutenant and wants to take revenge. Even Brabantio wants to take revenge against Othello for his daughter's running off with Othello and thus petitions the Duke to imprison Othello.

Thus, revenge is the most striking and central theme that runs throughout the narrative and indeed the entire plot revolves around this theme.