(1)

emphasise themes
enlighten moods

23/3/22

example

HTA3 - "Settings play an important role in Othello"

[redacted]

Settings indeed play an important role in the tragedy of Othello, but in different ways. One interpretation is *public versus private settings. Two other interpretations that will be explored in this essay are *Cyprus versus Venice and the bed in which Desdemona dies. Consequently, this essay will explore these ~~themes~~ interpretations to argue that settings play an important role in Othello, with some interpretations being more significant than others.

Brabantio's behaviour in

Othello's behaviour in

Brabantio's treatment of Othello in

AO1

~~Pro~~ The dynamic between public and private settings is an important interpretation in regard to the significance of settings in Othello. Brabantio privately loves Othello but publicly disapproves of him*, which arguably lightens Othello's insecurities about Desdemona and exacerbates the tragic outcome (Othello murdering Desdemona for her supposed infidelity). In Act 1, Othello states before the Duke in Venice that Brabantio "~~Ath~~ loved me [Othello], oft invited me and still questioned me the story of my life" when he was friends with Othello in private, however, when Desdemona marries Othello, Brabantio describes her as having "deceived her father". ~~In~~ The dissonance between his private behaviour towards Othello and public behaviour towards his daughter's love for Othello evidently haunts Othello later in the play, when he begins to mimick Brabantio's words in describing his daughter's marriage as "nature so preposterously to err, / Being not deficient, blind or lame of sense". Brabantio (and later on, Othello) describe Desdemona and Othello's marriage as being abnormal because they are not of the same "clime, complexion or degree", which further exacerbates Othello's insecurities about his marriage to Desdemona. Therefore, Brabantio's private approval and public disapproval of Othello is an important interpretation in regard to the significance of settings in Otheli because it exacerbates the tragic outcome by lightening Othello's insecurities.

("calling him a "foul thief")

AO2

AO2

AO5

Another key interpretation of ~~conflict~~ settings playing an important role in Othello is the difference in Othello's behaviour in Cyprus compared to Venice. When Othello leaves Venice, he is seen by all to be "valiant", ~~and~~ "brave" and "noble", hence why he is sent to Cyprus in the first place (~~"A~~ The Duke calls on "valiant Othello" in Act 1 to "straight employ you [Othello] / Against the general enemy Ottoman). However, by the time Lodovico arrives in Cyprus in Act 4, ~~Othello~~ the once "valiant" Othello has lost complete control of his behaviou

AO2

7/1

other way round

exclaiming "Goats and monkeys!" upon Lodovico's arrival to Cyprus and then proceeding to stop his wife. This emphasises the deterioration of his character since arriving in Cyprus because the Othello that promised to "... a round unvarnished tale deliver" in Act 1 is now unable to ~~properly~~ properly articulate himself; ~~his~~ by Act 4, his speech has become more fragmented and inarticulate ~~confessions~~ as ~~the~~ there are more dashes and punctuation ("confessions – handkerchief – confessions!"). Furthermore, Lodovico exclaims that Othello's behaviour "would not be believed in Venice!" which ~~emphasises~~ presents Venice as a place of structure and morality and Cyprus as a place of chaos as they travelled to Cyprus to fight a war. In Venice, everything and everyone ~~in society~~ is presented as following the approved societal structure of life except for Desdemona and Othello, which could be part of the reason why Shakespeare symbolically removes them from Venice and places them in Cyprus, a place presented as disorderly and chaotic in the play. Consequently, Othello's behaviour in Venice compared to Cyprus is a significant interpretation to understand the importance of settings in the tragedy of Othello because it highlights Venice and Cyprus as being exact opposites, ~~ex~~ ordered and chaotic respectively, to possibly also explain why ~~to~~ Othello committed murder in Cyprus.

1/13?

this means rough

A01

A final key interpretation of the importance of settings in Othello is Desdemona dying in the same bed that she was supposed to consummate her marriage in. When speaking with Cassio about getting Othello to ~~to~~ forgive her, Desdemona states that "his bed will seem a shrift, this board a scribe" to suggest that she will do everything in her power to help Cassio win Othello's favour. This is significant because it is her resolve to discuss Cassio even in her and Othello's bed that heightens Othello's suspicions about her affair and ultimately leads to him strangling her in that same bed. Iago tells Othello to "strangle her in her bed, even the bed she hath contaminated" which turns it from a place meant for creation and joy to a place of destruction and despair. This interpretation of settings' importance in Othello is crucial because it highlights the warped nature of Othello and Desdemona's relationship and provides the location of the deaths of Desdemona and Othello as well as

13 hm

A02

2 death

(3)

Vindy Fadipe

Emilia.

To conclude, settings indeed play an important role in the tragedy of Othello, with some interpretations of this ~~inclu~~ being Brabantio's private approval and public ~~disa~~ disapproval of Othello, the dissonance between Othello's behaviour in Cyprus and Venice, and the ~~location~~ bed in which Desdemona dies. The most significant interpretation is Brabantio's behaviour toward Othello in public versus private, because it is arguably the most important underlying factor that leads to Othello's change in behaviour and Desdemona's death as it is the ~~exact~~ foundation of Othello's insecurities about his marriage.

20/5

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