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English 10
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Othello Essay

Jealousy has brought many people to their downfall in the tragedy of Othello by William Shakespeare. The main character that causes the downfall of people would be honest Iago who isn't really honest and is filled with jealousy. Iago is a person that became jealous at another man who took his spot at becoming a lieutenant. This would then lead Iago to manipulate others to jealousy to get back at the new lieutenant who would lead to those influenced by Iago to their downfall, including Iago himself. Iago was found out by his own wife, Emilia and is reported for what he has done.

The first sign of jealousy in the play would be when Iago begins to talk badly about Othello. Their Iago begins to state why he should have received the promotion to lieutenant rather than Cassio. "I follow him to turn upon him/We cannot all be masters, nor all masters/Cannot be truly followed."(1.1.47). This statement made by Iago shows that he is already plotting to go against Othello and that he is only following Iago to turn on him when he is most weak. Iago is also trying to say that not all leaders were meant to be followed meaning that Othello was not meant to be a leader. Iago at this point wants to take revenge on Othello for making the wrong choice. Then Iago would then try to influence Othello into thinking that his wife Desdemona was having an affair with Cassio, which would make Othello think twice about promoting Cassio to lieutenant.

First Iago tries to put his plan into action by trying to get closer to Cassio making it seem like he was his best friend. Then he tries to brainwash Othello by continuously

telling him that Cassio like Desdemona and that they were having an affair. This will make Othello hate Cassio since he loved Desdemona so much. First Iago gets the handkerchief from Desdemona, which he would use, to frame Cassio. "I will in Cassio's lodging lose this napkin/And let him find it."(3.3.369-370). As you can see that Iago's plan starts to take effect someone begins to see through his plans. Since Iago is influencing Othello his mind is clouded and is not making the right decision. Othello is not the only one that is affected by the influence of Iago.

Another person that is affected by Iago would have been Roderigo; he is a man who is in love with Desdemona. Iago needs Roderigo because of his money since Roderigo thinks that he is paying Iago to try to get Desdemona. Roderigo mind is not as clouded as Othello with jealousy since he was able to see through Iago's plans. "I'll sell all my land" (1.3.425). The selling of all of Roderigo's land shows how much power and how Iago is a very deceiving man. This was all the cause of Iago being jealous just because he thought that he should have become lieutenant. The jealousy of one man causes other people to become jealous about different things almost like a chain effect. "I his gait. 'Tis he! -Villain, thou diest!"(5.1.24). Here Roderigo attacks Cassio just as Iago tells him too. This is Roderigo's downfall since he dies in this scene while fighting Cassio but stabbed by Iago. I think that if Roderigo did not listen to Iago he may have been better off.

Jealousy has brought the downfall of not one but several people in Othello by Shakespeare. Iago seems to be the one who causes all the problems and causes people to become jealous about other people. Iago did not only harm himself but the people around him and some even died while Iago was trying to put his plan into effect. After

everything the one that had found everything out was Iago's wife Emilia and had told everyone what had happened. This would then lead to Iago to be punished for his doings.

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Evaluation of Othello

Othello in my opinion was a person who was very smart and kind until jealousy had taken over him. At first he was very brave and would stand up for him and seem like the person who would stay true to his wife no matter what. In the play Othello was an ignorant person and did not want to listen to both sides of the story about Cassio and Desdemona. That was what had lead to his downfall and that I thought he deserved it since he was too ignorant o see the truth and what was really happening. All in all I thought that the play was enjoyable since at some points people are able to relate to Othello. An example would be that jealousy is in us all and that who wouldn't be jealous if you heard that your girlfriend or boyfriend was cheating on you.

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Evaluation of my Essay

In my essay about the play Othello I thought that I had done a better job than what I had done last time for the Oedipus essay. There may still be some more improvements that I may not see but I am willing to rewrite this essay if there are any mistakes in my essay. In this essay I'm not quite sure if I had followed exactly the same structure as the essay is suppose to be because I think I had strayed away from the way that the teacher had wanted the essay. Also I thought that I had done better on the essay because I had a better understanding of the play and that I had already knew what I was going to write about.