Othello Background

• Believed to have been written between approximately 1603-160	•	Believed to have	been written between	approximately_	1603	-16	05
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- Based on the Italian story, Hecatommithi, or "A Moorish Captain" by Cinthio, which was published in 1565
- First recorded performance was for King James I
- Richard Burbage, Shakespeare's partner and fellow actor, played Othello.
- Setting Venice, Italy
- Othello is unlike any other Shakespearean tragedy, in that there is no Secondary plot
- The tragic hero at the center of this story, Othello, is a black Moor, or a North African Muslim, a general in the Venetian army who falls in love and elopes with Desdemona, the White daughter of a powerful Venetian senator.
- Othello is a highly respected man of honor, but is still considered an outsider for the color of his skin
- He becomes trapped in a web of deceit spun by his "trusted" ensign, lago leads to his downfall. Iago seeks to destroy all that Othello values in life because he was passed over for a promotion by the soldier, Cassio

Dramatic Terms to Know

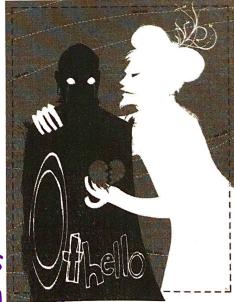
Dynamic Character evolves from beginning to end Ex: Othello

Static Character-

Character does not evolve or change Ex: lago (the villian)

or emphasizes certain traits of a major character by contrasting them

Cassio -> lago Emilia -> Desdemona



30