JEA 25.3.20 Cover to AS Lit/M2 Jenny A’s group

Hi all,

Today’s three lessons are on Act 1sc3.

1 As always, please listen to David K’s walkthrough on GOL annotating your copies for understanding of the language, action and characterisation.

2 As always, listen to the New Cambridge Shakespeare edition on stream. We are still on the first tape (fourth from bottom on stream) Scene 3 begins at 00:13.45.

Then answer the following questions:

1. List what Brabantio is accusing Othello of (lines59-106)
2. How does he change his attitude to his daughter in lines187-218?
3. What do you notice about the rhyming of his speech from 207-218? What is the effect of these rhymes? Whom is Brabantia mirroring in speaking like this? What does it show us about who has the power ie t e person that started speaking like this.

3 Desdemona and Othello as outsiders. Select from this scene and particularly from their long speeches, words and phrases to illustrate that they are both outsiders.

4 Write five bullet points each on Desdemona, Othello and Iago, our perceptions of them at the end of Act 1. What we know about them, what others say about them, how they act, and how they talk. Have a quotation for each point.

Note who talks in blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter – ten syllables per line) and who talks in prose (words that don’t look like poetry but are written like the paragraph of an essay). Shakespeare uses the latter when writing about: negative things; low life or low characters; people who have base or non-noble thoughts.

5 This next activity is to be done in pairs or groups. I thought I’d include it for a bit of fun, in case you can get together with others (virtually of course) and enjoy yourselves whilst learning!

One group or person is Othello, the other is a journalist interviewing him before he sets sail for Cyprus to help the Venetian cause there.

The journalist must write a set of questions to Othello about his ability to do the job, given what we have heard about him. You can include racism here if you like, or bring up that others have been racist about Othello, and how does this feel for him. Also bring up his lack of transparency about marrying Desdemona etc.

The other person or group is Othello and answers the questions, countering any bad publicity with a self-promoting speech and answers.

6 To what extent is Act 1 full of tragic potential as a play? Discuss in relation to the characters, your work on tragedy, and your work on context from last week. 750 words, uploaded to our work area. It can be your Easter hols h/w so deadline for uploading is Monday 20th April.