*Othello* Guiding Questions

Act Two

1. Examine Cassio’s descriptions of Desdemona and characterize his opinion of her. Is his reaction to her presence more than formal duty might require? Evidence?
2. What else is revealed about Iago’s character based on his interactions with his wife – especially lines 112 – 128?
3. What metaphors does Iago use to describe his plans for Othello’s downfall?
4. Look closely at lines 242-270. How does Iago convince Roderigo that Desdemona loves Cassio? Here, and throughout the Act, is Shakespeare playing on any stereotypes of Moors?
5. Just as you did for the Act One questions, take on the voice of Iago, and paraphrase his soliloquy at the end scene one – lines 308-334.
6. Define the three types of irony: verbal, situational and dramatic. Provide an example of each type from Act Two. When using a direct quote, please note the speaker and briefly explain the context.
7. Compare Cassio’s and Iago’s views on reputation. How does Iago plan to use reputation as a part of his plan against Cassio?
8. Reread Iago’s soliloquy in scene three, lines 356-382. What effect does the diction have on his message? How is the diction especially fitting for Iago’s character? For the play’s emerging themes?