

Cue Script:

Othello, Desdemona and Lodovico



Working on a scene with the help of a cue script is not only a great way to understand the historical context of rehearsing and acting in Shakespeare's time, it also forces students and actors alike to listen attentively to what the other characters are saying in order not to miss their cue. In addition, Shakespeare's plays contain very few explicit stage directions, as most of the clues are in the lines they speak. As a consequence, cue scripts are great for a two-stage exercise:



Step one: read the script together and listen out for cues; think about the characters and their relationships to each other, plus their mood (does it change over the course of the scene, or does it stay the same?)



Step two: think about inserting the stage directions – what do the characters do at which point in the scene? Do they enter the stage at some point, or do they go off? Do they need any props at any point?

Cue Script Act IV, Scene I

DESDEMONA

Desdemona. My lord?

I am glad to see you mad.

Desdemona. Why, sweet Othello,--

Devil!

Desdemona. I have not deserved this.

Out of my sight!

Desdemona. I will not stay to offend you.

Mistress!

Desdemona. My lord?

Cue Script Act IV, Scene I

OTHELLO

My lord?

Othello. I am glad to see you mad.

Why, sweet Othello,--

Othello. [Striking her] Devil!

she weeps.

Othello. O devil, devil!

If that the earth could teem with woman's tears,
Each drop she falls would prove a crocodile.
Out of my sight!

call her back.

Othello. Mistress!

My lord?

Othello. What would you with her, sir?

Who, I, my lord?

Othello. Ay; you did wish that I would make her turn:

Sir, she can turn, and turn, and yet go on,
And turn again; and she can weep, sir, weep;
And she's obedient, as you say, obedient,
Very obedient. Proceed you in your tears.
Concerning this, sir,--O well-painted passion!--
I am commanded home. Get you away;
I'll send for you anon. Sir, I obey the mandate,
And will return to Venice. Hence, avaunt!
Cassio shall have my place. And, sir, tonight,
I do entreat that we may sup together:
You are welcome, sir, to Cyprus.

Cue Script Act IV, Scene I

LODOVICO

I have not deserved this.

Lodovico. My lord, this would not be believed in Venice,
Though I should swear I saw't: 'tis very much:
Make her amends; she weeps.

I will not stay to offend you.

Lodovico. Truly, an obedient lady:
I do beseech your lordship, call her back

What would you with her, sir?

Lodovico. Who, I, my lord?