

# Getting Started with Shakespeare

## Primary Scenes and Characters



### *Characters: Othello*

These pictures show Othello, the main character in Shakespeare's play of the same name. Pictures 1 and 2 are book illustrations, and Picture 3 shows an actor playing Othello at the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow.

Find out more about Othello by looking closely at the pictures and trying to answer these questions.

#### **Picture 1 questions:**

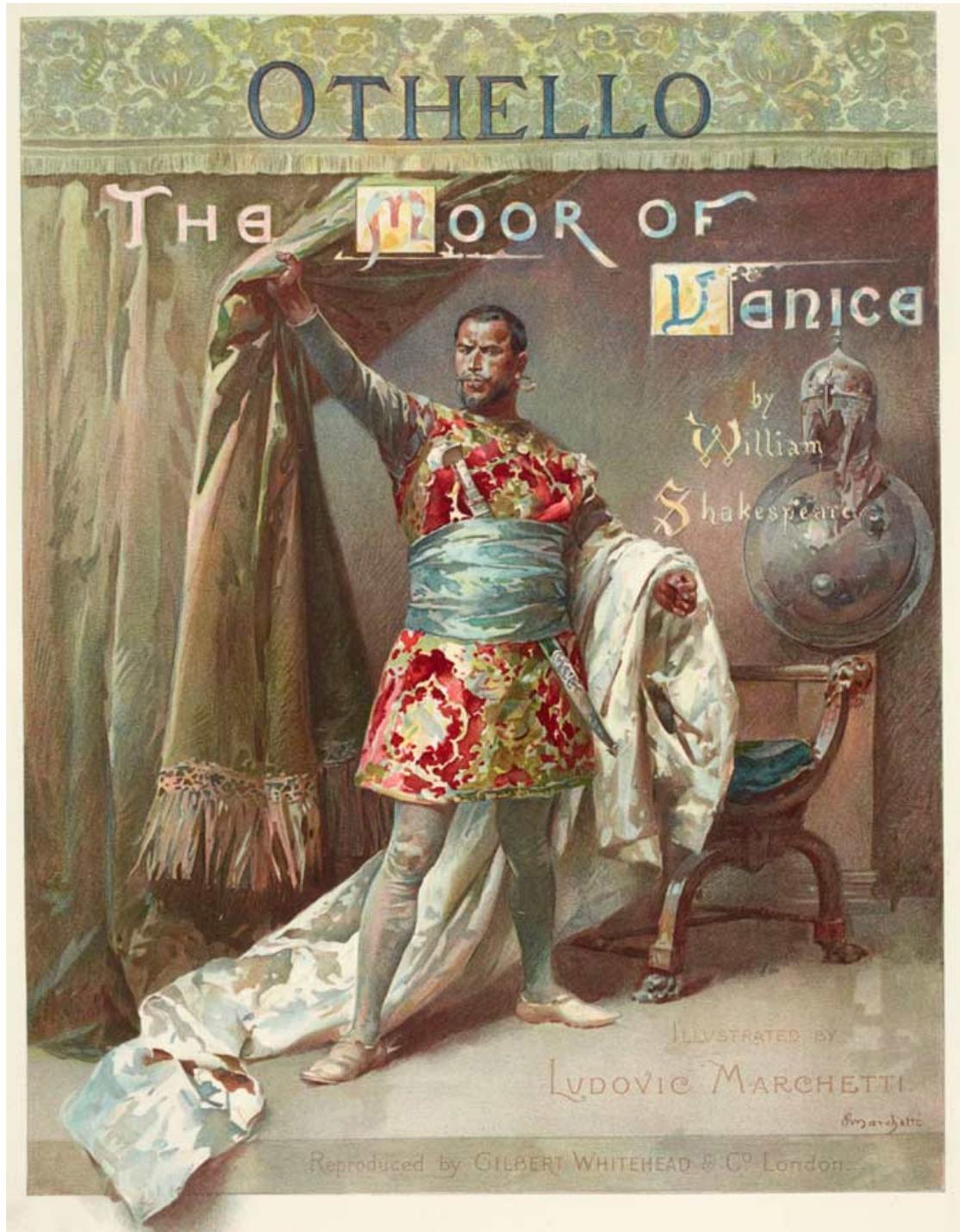
1. Choose three words that best describe the person in this picture.
2. Look at what Othello is wearing, and also at the objects to the right of the picture. What do the clothes and objects suggest about Othello's job and status?
3. Where is this scene taking place?

#### **Picture 2 questions:**

1. Look at what Othello is wearing. Do his clothes tell you anything about his job and his character? What do you think is the relationship between Othello and Desdemona?
2. Think of a title for this picture.
3. What is happening in the background of this picture?

#### **Picture 3 questions:**

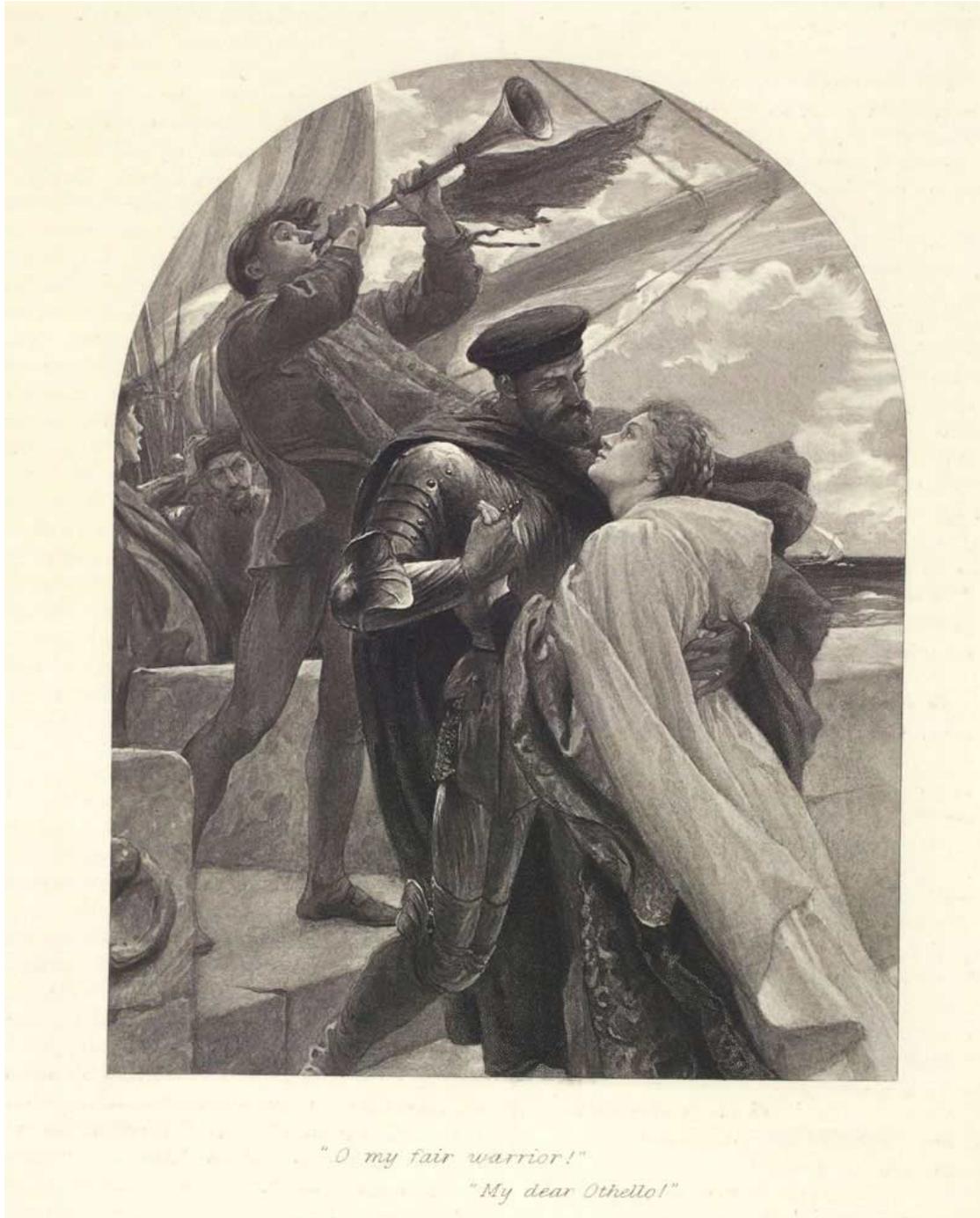
1. How is this picture similar or different to the other two pictures of Othello?
2. What do you think that Othello might be thinking or feeling in this picture?



**Picture 1**  
Othello by Ludovic Marchetti, 1893

**Picture 2**

Othello and Desdemona by Sir Francis Bernard Dicksee, 1890



**Picture 3**

Actor Jude Akuwudike playing Othello at the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow, 2009



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Photographer: Eamon McGoldrick.

## *Scenes: Romeo and Juliet*

These pictures show some of the key scenes from Shakespeare's play 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Find out more about the story of 'Romeo and Juliet' by looking closely at the pictures and trying to answer the questions.

### **Picture 1 questions:**

1. What do you think is the relationship between the four people in this picture?
2. Are there any signs that the four men in the picture might not get on with each other?
3. What might each person be thinking, feeling, or saying?
4. What do you think the man on the far right of the picture is preparing to do?

### **Picture 2 questions:**

1. Where do you think this scene is taking place? What's happening in the background of the picture?
2. What time of day do you think this scene is taking place?
3. Who do you think is the relationship between the two people at the front of the picture?
4. Why might the man at the front of the picture be looking back over his shoulder? What do you think he's feeling or thinking?

### **Picture 3 questions:**

1. Where do you think this scene is taking place? Look carefully at the objects on the table and on the shelves. What might they be used for?
2. What do you think is happening in this picture? Look at what both men are holding in their hands.
3. What do you think the two men are saying to each other?

### **Picture 4 questions:**

1. Where do you think this scene is taking place? What is the girl lying on?
2. If you stepped in to this picture, how would you feel? Have you ever visited anywhere that looks like this place? What do you think might be happening in this picture?
3. Imagine this scene coming to life. What do you think might happen next?

**Picture 1**

Illustrated scene from Romeo and Juliet, based on a design by Frank Bindley, 1896



**Picture 2**

Illustrated scene from Romeo and Juliet by Sir Francis Bernard Dicksee, 1884



**Picture 3 questions**

Illustrated scene from Romeo and Juliet, based on a design by Frank Bindley, 1896



**Picture 4**

Illustrated scene from Romeo and Juliet by Sir Francis Bernard Dicksee, 1884



## **CHARACTERS: TITANIA**

These pictures show Titania, one of the main characters in Shakespeare's play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Pictures 1 and 2 are book illustrations, and Picture 3 shows an actress playing Titania at the Globe Theatre in London.

Find out more about Titania by looking closely at the pictures and trying to answer the questions.

### **Picture 1 questions**

1. Think of three words that best describe the person in this picture.
2. Imagine you could step inside this picture. What might you hear or smell? How would you feel?
3. What time of day is it in the picture? Can you think of any reasons for this?
4. Look closely at the border around the main picture. What kind of things do you notice?

### **Picture 2 questions**

1. Think of three words that best describe the person in this picture. Are these words different from the ones you used to describe Picture 1?
2. Think of a title for this picture.
3. From looking at this picture, what type of story do you think 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' might be?

### **Picture 3 questions**

1. How is this picture similar or different to the other two pictures of Titania?
2. Look at the clothes that Titania is wearing in this picture. What might they tell us about her character?
3. Think of three words that best describe the person in this picture. Compare these words with those you chose for Pictures 1 and 2.

**Picture 1**

Titania from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 1889



**Picture 2**  
Titania by Lucy Fitch Perkins, 107



**Picture 3**

Actress Siobhan Redmond playing Titania at the Globe Theatre in London



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## ***CHARACTERS: MACBETH***

These pictures show Macbeth, one of the main characters in Shakespeare's play, 'Macbeth'. Three of them are book illustrations, and one is a photograph of two actors playing the parts of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth at the Globe Theatre in London.

Find out more about Macbeth by looking closely at the pictures and trying to answer the questions.

### **Picture 1 questions**

1. What's the first thing you notice about this picture?
2. Where is this scene taking place? What time of day is it? What is the weather like?
3. Describe the three figures on the left of the picture? Do you think that they are friendly towards the men on horses?
4. What do you think might be happening in the picture?

### **Picture 2 questions**

1. What might each person be thinking, feeling or saying in this picture?
2. Choose three words to describe the mood of this scene.
3. Who do you think has most power in this scene – Macbeth or Lady Macbeth?

### **Picture 3 questions**

1. What might the two characters in this picture be thinking or feeling? Which one do you think is most frightened?
2. Which of the two men do you think is Macbeth, King of Scotland?
3. Imagine this scene coming to life. What do you think might happen next?

**Picture 1**  
Illustrated scene from Macbeth, 1901



**Picture 2:**  
Actors playing Macbeth and Lady Macbeth at the Globe Theatre, London



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**Picture 3:**

Illustrated scene from Macbeth by J Quartley, 1886

