

Focus Question: How does Shakespeare communicate jealousy through characters action/ words in the book?

Being envious can lead a person to being jealous of a certain person. In Othello the Moor of Venice by William Shakespeare, there are jealousy within the characters of this book. The characters in this book show that they are jealous through their actions and words. For example, Iago is jealous of Othello so he tries to get revenge on Othello by lying to him. If being envious of someone leads to a person being jealous of someone, jealousy can also change the person. Shakespeare uses words and actions of characters in this book to communicate jealousy.

One way that William Shakespeare communicates jealousy is by Iago's words. When Othello does not give Iago the position as the lieutenant, Iago gets mad and plans revenge against Othello. Othello however does not know this because he trusts Iago very much and will believe much of what Iago tells Othello. Iago however takes advantage of this fact, and fill Othello's ears with nothing but lies. Iago tells Othello that the love of this life, Desdemona, is cheating on him with Cassio, the person whom he gave the position of lieutenant to, and the person he cares a lot for. Hearing this from Iago several of times, Othello believes him and turns furious about what he thinks is the "truth". Even though Iago is full of lies, Othello still talks to Iago and seeks for advice about what to do about this situation. Everyone knows Iago is a very honest and loyal guy except himself. "I am not what I am" (1.1 71). This quote tells us that Iago is not who everyone thinks he is. Behind what Othello thinks is honesty, there is an evil, two-faced man who is jealous

Cassio took the position of lieutenant instead of Iago, he wants to Othello to lose his trust on Cassio and make Othello turn against him.

Since these two characters Othello and Iago both were jealous in the book, Shakespeare showed us these two characters jealousy and anger through the character actions/ words. It is good to show your feelings and express how you feel to people but it's not good to express your feelings the wrong way. Othello in this book showed his jealousy by hitting Desdemona and calling her a whore and later at the end, ends up killing her. Iago showed his jealousy by getting Cassio, Desdemona, and Othello killed at the end. This is how Shakespeare communicates jealousy throughout the book.