ENG 4U1 Ms. Tate

***Othello***

**ACT III Discussion Questions**

Answers can be in point form, as long as they are thorough.

**Act III, Scene 1**

1. Why does Cassio get the musicians to play at the beginning of this scene?
2. What is Othello’s reaction to Cassio’s attempts to please him?
3. Why does Cassio want access to Desdemona?
4. What do we learn of Desdemona’s feelings towards Cassio’s situation?

**Act III, Scene 2**

1. What is Shakespeare’s purpose in this brief scene?

**Act III, Scene 3**

1. Why does Cassio leave when Othello enters the scene? How does this end up working to his disadvantage?
2. What are Desdemona’s actual intentions in regards to Cassio?
3. Explain Iago’s actions in this scene in regards to planting doubt in Othello’s mind.
4. Discuss Othello’s behaviour in this scene. Can his emotions be justified? Explain.
5. What is the importance of the handkerchief in this scene?
6. How does Emilia assist with Iago’s plan against Othello and Desdemona?

**Act III, Scene 4**

1. How does Othello treat Desdemona in this scene?
2. What explanations does Desdemona provide to account for Othello’s changed behaviour?
3. What is the history of the handkerchief? How does it become increasingly important as this Act progresses?
4. Who is Bianca? What is her significance to the play as a whole?
5. Discuss the major characters up to this point in the play (Othello, Iago, Desdomona and Cassio) What is your opinion of each of them in regards to their actions, reactions and emotions at the end of ACT III?