

Othello

William Shakespeare

What does Iago reveal about himself by saying that faithful service can be a form of deception?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Iago defines honest appearance as a disguise
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Act I, Scene I
START	O, sir, content you. I follow him to serve my turn upon him:
END	I am not what I am.
PASSAGE ID	sec-oth-01

THE MOVE

Read contradiction as character self-definition

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Iago openly explains that apparent loyalty can be a disguise for self-interest. The contradiction is not accidental hypocrisy discovered later; it is a deliberate principle he uses to define himself before much of the plot unfolds.

MARK

Underline Iago’s statements about serving Othello. Circle the lines that reveal the private motive behind that service. Put a star beside the sentence where appearance and reality are most completely separated.

NOTICE

- What does Iago want other people to believe about his service?
- What does he say his service is actually for?
- Why is 'I am not what I am' more than a clever contradiction?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Iago reveal about himself by saying that faithful service can be a form of deception? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Iago reveal about himself by saying that faithful service can be a form of deception? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Iago reveals that deception is not a temporary tactic for him but a principle: outward loyalty can be performed while private motives run in the opposite direction. He defines himself through the deliberate separation of appearance and intention.
EVIDENCE	Use his distinction between servants who truly serve and those who serve themselves, culminating in the contradiction 'I am not what I am.'
WATCH FOR	Do not answer simply that Iago is dishonest. Explain how he makes dishonesty into a theory of how to live and gain advantage.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

Othello

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What does Iago reveal about himself by saying that faithful service can be a form of deception?

START ANCHOR	O, sir, content you. I follow him to serve my turn upon him:
END ANCHOR	I am not what I am.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline Iago's statements about serving Othello. Circle the lines that reveal the private motive behind that service. Put a star beside the sentence where appearance and reality are most completely separated.
2. **NOTICE** - What does Iago want other people to believe about his service? What does he say his service is actually for? Why is 'I am not what I am' more than a clever contradiction?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What does Iago reveal about himself by saying that faithful service can be a form of deception?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.