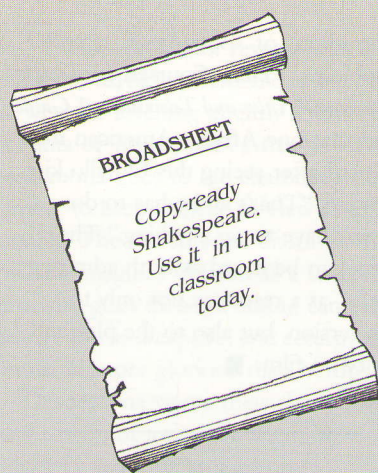




Othello Word-Frequency List

Excluding conjunctions, articles, and prepositions, these are the 152 most frequently used words in *Othello*. If you want to see more, consult the list posted on www.mta.link75.org/curriculum/english/shake/

No matter what actors, directors, scholars, or teachers do with Shakespeare, they always come back to the words. Here is a list of the most frequently used words in *Othello*.

Use it with a concordance to spark a fresh discussion or a new writing assignment. Here are a few ideas:

1. Before you start to study the play, assign each student a different significant word from the top 30. You might want to omit the names. Then ask students to follow that word throughout their reading and write a paper discussing why that word was so significant.
2. After they have read the play, have students comment on some surprises: Why is "love" used 76 times and "hate" only 6? Why does "Cassio" (112) appear more than "Othello" (24)? "God" (9) and "devil" (19)? There are plenty of other curiosities in the list, and an excellent technique is to let your students discover them themselves.
3. Have them look for patterns or themes in the list. Religion, body parts, family relationships, and honesty are just a few.
4. Ask them what words seem to be missing from the list. What words don't seem to belong?
5. Skip Nicholson of South Pasadena (California) High School tells us that sometimes he hands a list like this out to his students and simply says, "Do something with it." ■

1. Cassio 112	52. being 20	103. father 14
2. love 76	53. fear 20	104. full 14
3. more 72	54. find 20	105. heard 14
4. say 65	55. little 20	106. lie 14
5. think 65	56. made 20	107. madam 14
6. go 62	57. mind 20	108. marry 14
7. heaven 60	58. noble 20	109. might 14
8. Iago 58	59. thought 20	110. money 14
9. Moor 56	60. tonight 20	111. patience 14
10. speak 50	61. bed 19	112. seen 14
11. man 48	62. devil 19	113. set 14
12. honest 42	63. lost 19	114. those 14
13. Desdemona 41	64. sure 19	115. thoughts 14
14. look 35	65. thing 19	116. wrong 14
15. wife 34	66. villain 19	117. confess 13
16. indeed 32	67. against 18	118. content 13
17. soul 31	68. call 18	119. course 13
18. general 30	69. leave 18	120. death 13
19. night 30	70. mistress 18	121. else 13
20. lieutenant 29	71. poor 18	122. get 13
21. time 29	72. sense 18	123. jealous 13
22. handkerchief 28	73. willow 18	124. lay 13
23. pray 28	74. best 17	125. live 13
24. take 28	75. foul 17	126. mean 13
25. heart 27	76. friend 17	127. meet 13
26. true 27	77. gave 17	128. none 13
27. hand 26	78. Venice 17	129. signior 13
28. nothing 26	79. way 17	130. state 13
29. Roderigo 26	80. bring 16	131. watch 13
30. world 26	81. false 16	132. business 12
31. done 25	82. farewell 16	134. drunk 12
32. hear 25	83. free 16	135. Emilia 12
33. matter 25	84. keep 16	136. eyes 12
34. men 25	85. life 16	137. fool 12
35. place 25	86. many 16	138. gentlemen 12
36. comes 24	87. stand 16	139. grace 12
37. great 24	88. woman 16	140. hither 12
38. Othello 24	89. bear 15	141. kill 12
39. sweet 24	90. cause 15	142. kill'd 12
40. Cyprus 23	91. dead 15	143. knave 12
41. other 23	92. dear 15	144. lies 12
42. fair 22	93. first 15	145. loved 12
43. help 22	94. gone 15	146. loves 12
44. husband 22	95. nature 15	147. murder 12
45. light 22	96. said 15	148. rather 12
46. myself 22	97. work 15	149. reason 12
47. tell 22	98. better 14	150. speech 12
48. faith 21	99. blood 14	151. whore 12
49. found 21	100. cry 14	152. wit 12
50. hold 21	101. daughter 14	
51. lady 21	102. die 14	