

SUBJECT: English

UNIT: Year 8 Shakespeare's Villains

OTHELLO:

Iago is the main antagonist in William Shakespeare's *Othello*. A cunning and manipulative ensign, he plays a central role in the tragedy by orchestrating Othello's downfall. Motivated by jealousy and resentment—especially over being passed over for promotion—he deceives Othello into believing that his wife, Desdemona, is unfaithful. Through lies, manipulation, and the exploitation of others, including Cassio and Roderigo, Iago gradually poisons Othello's mind. His actions lead to jealousy, madness, and ultimately the deaths of Desdemona, Othello, and others. Iago's deceit remains undiscovered until the final act, revealing the devastating power of manipulation and mistrust.

RICHARD III:

Richard III, the title character in Shakespeare's *Richard III*, is a ruthless, ambitious, and manipulative villain. Physically deformed and deeply resentful, he uses deceit, charm, and murder to eliminate anyone who stands between him and the throne of England. Richard is highly intelligent and self-aware, often speaking directly to the audience to reveal his schemes. Despite his cunning, his tyranny eventually isolates him and leads to his downfall. Richard's character is a study in unchecked ambition and moral corruption, making him one of Shakespeare's most compelling and infamous antagonists.

ROMEO AND JULIET:

Tybalt is a hot-headed and aggressive character in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. He is Juliet's cousin and a fierce supporter of the Capulet family. Known for his pride and quick temper, Tybalt is always ready to fight, especially against the Montagues. His hatred for Romeo leads to a deadly confrontation in which he kills Mercutio, prompting Romeo to kill him in revenge. Tybalt's actions escalate the feud between the families and play a key role in the tragic events that follow.

MACBETH:

The witches in *Macbeth*, also known as the Weird Sisters, are mysterious and supernatural figures who play a crucial role in the play. They appear at the beginning, setting the dark and ominous tone, and prophesy that Macbeth will become king. Their predictions spark Macbeth's ambition and set him on a path of murder and tyranny. The witches speak in riddles and half-truths, manipulating Macbeth while never directly telling him what to do. They represent fate, temptation, and the corrupting influence of unchecked ambition in the play.