

Benchmark 1A: Character Analysis Questions

Name: Roderigo
Height: 5' 9"
Weight: 150
Build: lean
Age: 28

- When normally, I talk as if I am desperate for love or to seek someone. I always put myself second, never first. I am not very confident in myself, and that shows through my manners and expressions. Show deep love and care when I appreciate someone's help. I can seem to be oblivious and ignorant when I talk. I use hand movements and different manners to express my emotions; I am very emotional.
- I am from a little village/ town in Italy. It was a little community where everyone loved each other and knew one another. Everyone had a little house where their mom would cook pies to greet you from coming home from play.
- I like to have great friends that I can trust and have nice drink with. I would also like to have a lover that cares deeply for me as do I care for her too. I look to enjoy a nice book accompanied with a fire and a mans best friend. Whenever possible, I like to be with people, family, and friends. That is where we can cherish happy moments and sing songs.
- I dislike being alone and not having anyone there for me. I loved my mother dearly and still do, but now that she is gone, I don't have a woman in my life. I would like to have someone to take care of me, but now I don't. I dislike that feeling of loneliness. I feel like I don't get what I want from listening to others. I think I rely on others opinions too much. I wish I were stronger and more handsome like others, so I guess it is safe to say I dislike myself and how I am.
- I desire a woman in my life, but more than that, I desire Desdemona and to see Cassio dead. A warm home to live in with a family to be with me is something I have dreamed of. I desire to be a strong man that get go out on the seas and conquer for our land. One day, I hope to have a son to teach the arts of sword fighting to. At the end of my adventures in Othello, I desire to see Iago dead.
- I fear that I will eventually be a lonely man. I wont get what I desire and be stuck being the shadow of others. I fear of my insecurities within myself. I fear that they show and that everyone sees that I can be someone with no opinion. I fear I will become a lost soul.
- What makes me feel safe is knowing that I have a good friend, like Iago, to help me in any situation I have trouble in. I know he is stronger and brighter than me. With that, he can help me achieve what I need while still maintaining his rights in life. I would feel safe if I was stronger and mentally more in shape, too. I know that in some situations, I am not the smartest and the one to think quickly off of my feet. When I have my men around me, I know I am safer than I would be on my own.

- I hate when I disappoint others and myself. Like I have said, I am insecure about myself, so when I disappoint someone else, I get mad at myself because I know I have weaknesses. In love, I hate when I keep trying and trying something or trying to get someone, but they don't even notice me. It is like I don't exist, and I hate when people don't see me. I was never the popular guy, so this just shuts me down even more so.
- I love my mom and my family. I love to be loved and to love others. I was raised in a very welcoming family, and I treat others that way and expect to be treated that way as well. I love to have a good time with friends (the guys) and make a difference in the world, or our world we know. I have always wanted to be a hero, so when I feel I have done a great deed, I love the rush you get.
- My childhood were my best years so far. I had a family that loved me and I loved them. I was love spoiled. Everyone around knew that and made fun of me for being a "mommy's boy." Ever since then, my ego has been ruined. Even though those years had some bad times in it, they were still the best. We lived in a small town where I would go to school, play with the locals, and accompany my mother in baking, my father in working and fishing, and my sisters in taking care of tasks. I was never the son that fulfilled a father's desire.
- What I want most in life is to be confident in myself. If I was confident in myself, I would not absolutely need a lover, I would not need people's advice and I could care less about what I need to be viewed as. I would be comfortable in my own skin. Because I am not, I have all these desires and wishes that I fear will never come true. I could roar and lead like others and then from that have a woman on my side like Othello.
- I daydream about lovers; Desdemona. This has been so lately, though. In general, I can daydream about being The Man. The man that is a warrior and has a great life. I daydream about how my mother and father met and why it has not yet happened to me. I daydream of different scenarios that will never happen in my life, but only fantasies. These are all things I desire and ponder about.
- My fantasies are what I desire, need, and daydream about. They are the things that I know will never come true. So, instead, I imagine my wonderful life in my head as a fantasy. They consist of be being this man that at is everything I am not. These fantasies have formed from the things I love and want but have not yet come to me.
- I have lost real things and things that only consist inside my head. I have lost people. That is my mother, my dear friends through betrayal, my father's love, and hope/confidence. I have lost these people/things either from deaths, betrayals, disappointments/expectations, and lost in life,
- My secrets are that I am insecure about myself. However, I think people see right through me, so I have secrets about they are naturally revealed. They are revealed by me being the open and emotional person I am to people. I cannot control my initial thoughts and reactions to certain things.
- I try to mask or cover up my insecurities about myself, or the fact that I am not the best fighter, and that I have not been able to get everything I want. I try to play the role of a man in Cyprus and Venice. The strong man that can conquer love and battles. I mask up who I truly am. I only show my true self to my dearest friends and family.

- Religiously, I am Catholic. I was raised with Catholic imbedded in my early life and I have tried to carry it throughout the rest. Non-religious, I believe in true love and friendships, however, I sometimes don't believe in it within myself. I have failed at certain things within my life, that I see it within others, but not myself. I believe that I will get love some days, but when it does not work out, I believe I will not.
- What I believe is 'right' is for one to actually feel comfortable in ones skin regardless of what they are like. However, because our society is not like that, we still must cover up who we truly are still. I think it is right for me to like someone, even though she belongs to someone else. I don't think it is wrong for me to still try to pursue her. If I am in love with someone, or if anyone is in love with anyone, nothing should stop him or her to try to get what he or she wants.
- What I believe is 'wrong' is for one to not like who they are. I wish I could love whom I am deep down inside, but that is not the case. A lot of things that are wrong exist.
- My general outlook on life is that it should be filled with wondrous and adventurous moments. My life so far has not yet been completely. I still look forward to more moments in my life. Life is a time to become what you dreamed of when you were a little boy.
- The color I relate to is orange. Orange is the color that is closest to red on the color wheel. Red symbolizes passion and love and braveness. Because orange is the step right before that, I placed myself (Roderigo) there.
- My economic position is enough for me to live a decent life. I don't have the most money in the world, but enough to try to raise a family, and live off of. However, recently, I sold all of my land and gave everything away to pursue love with Desdemona.
- My social position is not very high. People know who I am, but I am not known as anyone close to the standards of Othello. This probably due to my shyness, lack of confidence, and my social background (where I come from socially).
- My economic and social status does not necessarily help me, if anything they weaken my confidence. I know I am nothing special economically and socially, so I still view myself and help me view myself as nothing special myself.
- My family situation is I don't have a family of my own. My family that raised me is mostly diminished. In general, I don't have much of a family.
- From my family that raised me, my mother and I were the closest ones. I loved my mother dearly. My father and I had an interesting relationship. I tried to get to know him and prove to him that I am a good son, but he never really accepted me. I think I am emotional because I spent a lot of time with my mother. It would have benefited my now if I had spent more time with my father. However, he saw that I was different and disowned me. My two sisters were exactly the same. I never saw them much. They moved out quickly once finding spouses.
- My friends are Iago mostly. I don't have many friends. I think it is because I am not very well liked by many people.
- My enemies are Othello and Cassio. They are both dear to Desdemona. They are my competition that I must succeed past in order to get her.
- Some major successes of mine have been to notice my strengths and weaknesses in life. I know who I am as a person. I have been often close to things I want. As a team,

Iago and I have worked effectively in getting Othello into trouble and trying to get what we both want in life.

- Some of my major frustrations in life are the things I cannot succeed in. That is love and my personal traits. I cannot get my loved one that I have been seeking for my life. Knowing a lot of people that have spouses and knowing that I don't have one frustrates me dearly.

Benchmark 1 b. Self-Statements

Statements that you say about yourself that are true:

- “My name is Roderigo,” (1.1.105).
- “It is silliness to live, when to live is torment, and then have we a prescription to die when death is our physician,” (1.3.350-352).
- “I will do this, if you can bring it to any opportunity,” (2.1.303-304).
- “I do follow here in the chase, not like a hound that hunts, but one that fills up the cry. My money is almost spent, I have been tonight exceedingly well cudged, and I think the issue will be I shall have so much experience for my pains, and so, with no money at all and a little more wit, return again to Venice,” (2.3.384-390).
- “Every day thou daff’st me with some device, Iago, and rather, as it seems to me now, keep’st from me all conveniency than supplied me with the least advantage of hope. I will indeed no longer endure it. Nor am I yet persuaded to put up in peace what already I have foolishly suffered,” (4.2.206-211).

Statements that others say about you that are true:

- None.

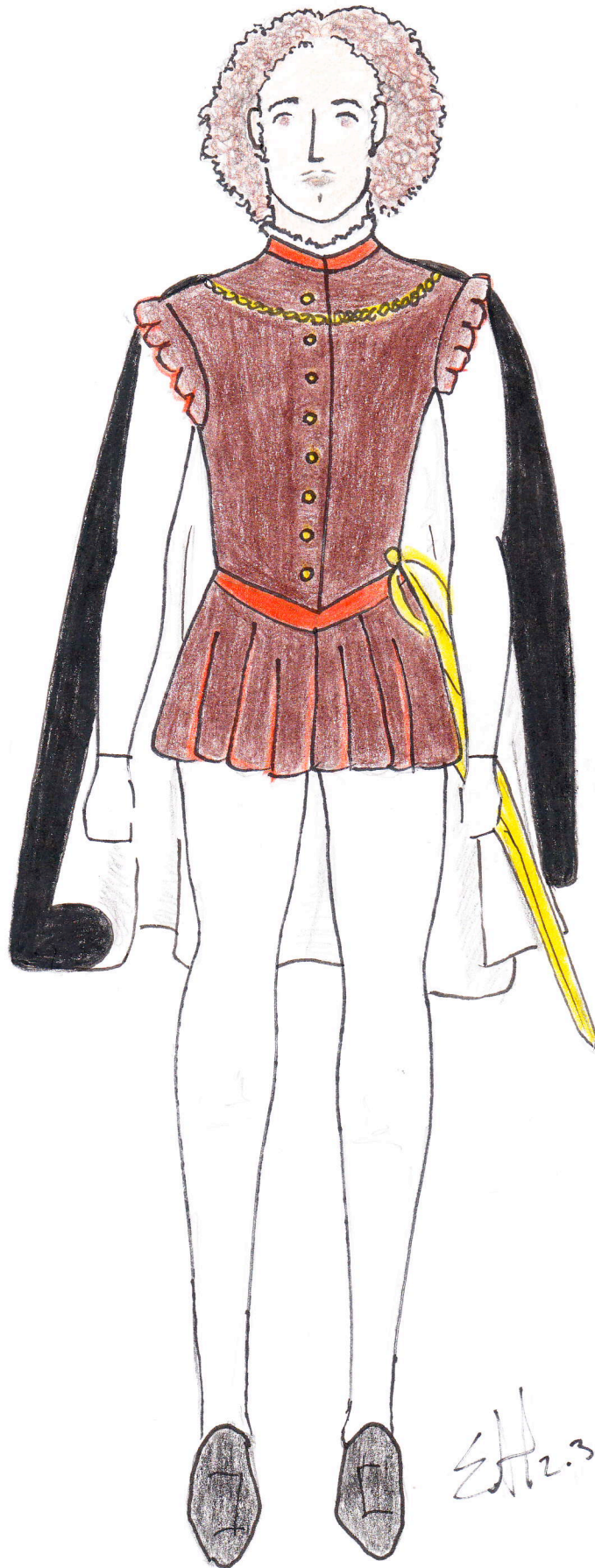
Statements that you say about yourself that are false:

- “By heaven, I rather would have been his hangman,” (1.1.36).
- “I would not follow him, then,” (1.1.43).
- “Yes, sir, I have indeed,” (1.1.197).
- “I am changed,” (1.3.422).

Statements that others say about you that are false:


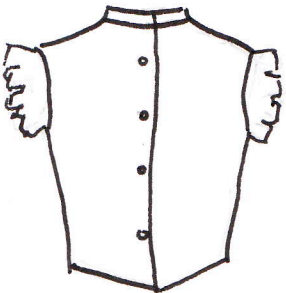

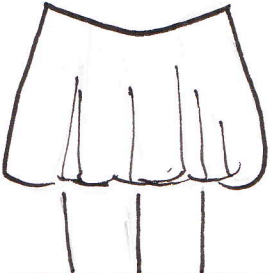
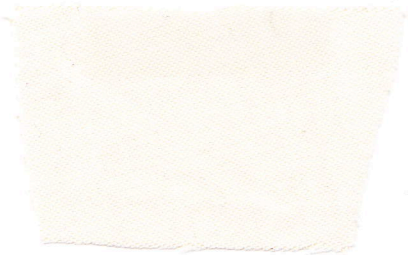
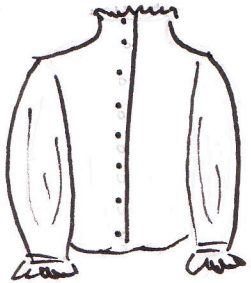

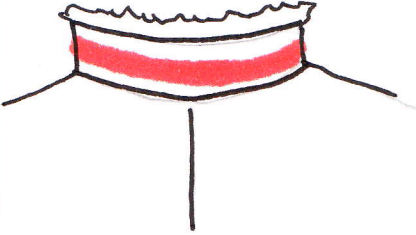
- “What, have you lost your wits?” (1.1.103).
- “On, good Roderigo. I will deserve your pains,” (1.1.206).
- “If thou dost, I shall never love thee after. Why, thou silly gentleman!” (1.3.348-349).
- “I never found man that knew how to love himself,” (1.3.355-356).
- “I have professed me thy friend,” (1.3.379-380).
- “You charge me most unjustly,” (4.2.215).
- “I have rubbed this young quat almost to the sense, and he grows angry,” (5.1.12-13).

R O D E R I G O



EH 2.3.08

Fabric Schedule of Roderigo

	<p>Vest</p> 	<p>Brown, thick velvet makes the vest look harder like armor.</p>
	<p>Skirt</p> 	<p>The skirt is brown to match the vest.</p>
	<p>Under Shirt</p> 	<p>This goes underneath the vest, he has a basic under shirt.</p>
	<p>Ribbon/Collar</p> 	<p>The orange ribbon shows that his personality is like the color orange. This is shown on his collar and his pleats.</p>

Evan Hutchinson
Kappa.
2.5.08

Character Analysis: Roderigo Costume Design

Roderigo's outfit design is inspired by mostly my imagination with remnants of Othello, Shakespeare in Love, and pictures of the 1700's. I did do some research in the beginning to find some inspiration, but a lot of sites on the internet were very vague and did not have as many pictures themselves as I thought they would. With that, I gladly put something together on my own.

From the beginning, I knew exactly what I wanted Roderigo's upper half to look like. From my inspiration, I started to sketch out a vest that had an armor/corset feel to it. It would be tight and molded to his body. The collar of the vest is about an inch n' a half wide, and coming out of the collar would be white scruffles from the collar of his under shirt. The vest/jacket would be a dark brown color and on the one inch collar of it would be a strip of orange ribbon. I knew I wanted something orange on his jacket, so I figured brown is a nice color to go with orange. To me, orange symbolizes a couple things. First, the obvious is, orange is the color that's right before red. Red symbolizes bravery and power, and sometimes royalty. I viewed orange as the pathetic version of red. Throughout the play Othello, Roderigo is kind of pathetic until the end. He follows everyone and doesn't show an opinion of his own. Secondly, orange can mean demanding of attention. In the play, Roderigo's main goal is to get Desdemona and plotting out how to get her to notice him and possibly fall for him. Through these symbols, orange depicts Roderigo fairly well.

Along with the main pieces of Roderigo's outfit is also a cape. I chose to put a cape on Roderigo because in the beginning of the play we see him as a wealthy man, and when getting closer and closer to the end of the play, he gets poorer and poorer in money and in spirit. Money is something that can easily go away and can be easily taken away from you. I made it there to symbolize that he once had money, but as easily as a cape can be taken off, so can your money from your back. As drawn, the cape is black on the outside, but white n the inside. The combination of black and white symbolizes mourning and cheerless occasions. During most of the play, this side of Roderigo was depicted through him not having a lover and always relying on "honest" Iago, in return for nothing. Like I said before, a cape can be easily taken off and put back on, and possible Roderigo could take this negative side about him off, but it could easily be re-enforced.

The other pieces like his tights and his shoes are to just to fill up the rest of his outfit. The color of his tights are white to be natural/neutral and were common then, as so were black shoes. His skirt is to be matched with his jacket and has nice pleats to show wealth with orange barely showing to resemble what the orange collar does.

This outfit of Roderigo is shown before he put all the money in thy purse and sold his land. All the symbols put together represent him through his wealth and personality. The second sketch is of him after he puts his money in "thy purse," as Iago told him to do.

Monologue Character Analysis

Production Notes for Monologue:

- **Blocking:** After Cassio exits the stage and Iago is the only one left in the center of the stage, Roderigo enters stage from stage right in a determined and somewhat frantic manner. Roderigo walks all the way up to Iago in the center of the stage to interrupt Iago from his own monologue to audience. I can imagine Roderigo going up to Iago as if, first, apologizing to the audience for interrupting to greatly tell Iago something. Due to Roderigo's stress on telling Iago about his plans, he is right next to Iago, and eventually becomes right into the middle of the stage (almost stealing the center of the stage from Iago). This is a point of almost rock bottom for Roderigo. He has been through, already, trials to try to get the accomplished what promises were made to him by Iago.
- **Pace & Stress:** Because I visualize Roderigo running into the center of the stage in a frantic manner to tell Iago something, he first starts off his monologue fast and affected by him being out of breathe, a bit. After his first sentence, he takes a breath to gather his thoughts. The second sentence starts off emotional and rather slow as if about to cry. Certain words that are emphasized in a slower and passionate manner are money, exceedingly, and pains. The last part of the last sentence, when mentioning he is going back to Venice, starting off with and so, should start to speed up the pace because he is talking, now, in a convinced and determined manner.
- **Body:** Roderigo enters the stage from the right hand side, by running in and looking towards Iago. Roderigo puts his hand on Iago and looks at the audience and gives the gesture of "I'm sorry, but I need to interrupt for a moment or two." The speech starts off by looking at Iago, but then moves towards the center of stage and slowly walks closer to the audience by moving forwards and slightly to the left. When Roderigo says, "Is almost spent," he moves his arm/hand across in front of him. Once he gets to "I have been to-night..." he should stop at the end of the stage to the left. Once, "and, so, with no money at all and a little more wit," he look back at Iago at center stage and starts walking back towards him in center stage." Most of Roderigo's speech is without gestures other than frustration signs, like touching is forehead. He is either looking at Iago, the audience, or the floor out of shame.