

Jealousy as a theme Jealousy motivates the central conflicts of Othello: Iago's resentment of Othello, and Othello's suspicion of Desdemona. Iago knows, perhaps from his own experience, that jealousy is a form of psychological torture which will constantly torment Othello. He also later implies that his hatred of Othello is rooted in jealousy, since there are rumors of Othello having slept with Emilia