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Reading Journal Assignment #4

After reading Act I of Othello, it is clear that this is a relatively ordinary Shakespearean play. Thus, it translates well to modern day. In the first act alone, Shakespeare reveals: lust, hunger for power, love, and revenge, and the influence of love. Any of these qualities could exist in a modern setting because they are inherent in human nature.

Movies with characters such as Iago and Roderigo are very common because there are many opportunities for humorous and tragic situations. Although I have not seen it, *Hitch*, starring Will Smith reminds me of characters paying to become more of a ladies' man. Humans also have an insatiable appetite when it comes to power. People never make enough money, never have enough influence, or have enough material goods. Thus, it is quite common to see works about people who are willing to do anything to get to the top, to become famous, or win over that unattainable woman.

Revenge is also common in modern works. Everyone has seen a movie at one point, in which a wife or girlfriends is lost to a best friend and revenge is taken against them. However, the influence of love is much more apparent now than it was in the time of Shakespeare. Family had more of an influence over what you did and whom you married. However, Desdemona secretly marries Othello and chooses him over her family. Deserting your family for a love is a more common theme today, but is certainly feasible for any time period. Because of Shakespeare's timelessness, it is easy to place any of the themes in Othello during any period of history.