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Othello Film Analysis and Reflection Paragraph

Tim Blake Nelson's O is a modern form of *Othello* by William Shakespeare. While creating the movie, he made some dramatic changes in order to modernize the story and make it reflect society today. One thing he changes within the plot is Hugo's or Iago's motivations. In the play, Iago's motivations behind his malicious behavior were unclear. However, Nelson makes Hugo's motivations clear that he wanted to be the star in his father's eye. For example, when Hugo's father says "I love him like my own son" (Ebert, 2001) to Odin, Hugo's reaction in the full camera shot shows his jealousy and rage. Another thing Nelson changes is Roger's or Roderigo's character. Nelson makes Roger, "Desdemona's former lover" (Ebert, 2001), a more childish and unpopular character in the movie (the close up shot of Roger getting picked on in the film clearly shows this). Whereas in the play, Roderigo was just a character who nobody really knew except for Iago. By making Roger a more childish and unpopular character, you got a better idea of how he helped out in Hugo's (Iago's) plan while keeping his situation a secret to the other characters. Nelson's modernized changes to the play *Othello* really helped the audience get a clearer picture and understanding of William Shakespeare's play.