



Drew Sees Himself Like Othello

Drew feels a strong connection to Othello in Shakespeare's play. He sees himself as a skilled Black basketball player facing blocks, just like Othello was a good Black general dealing with racism. In English class, Drew stands up for Othello being Black, even when his teacher doesn't agree.

When Coach House starts giving more playing time to Tomas (the white player from Europe) instead of Drew, it feels unfair. Drew has worked hard and has skills, but now he's being pushed aside. This reminds him of how Iago worked against Othello in the play. For Drew, basketball is his way to college and maybe the pros—just like being a general was Othello's path to respect. Both use their skills to try to beat the blocks in their way.

The good news is that Drew handles things better than Othello did. Instead of letting anger destroy him, Drew learns to work with Tomas. He sees that his real fight isn't against Tomas but against the few choices for young Black men from his area.