

**Othello** Themes and Symbolism in Welles' Film

Major Theme	Visual or Symbol	My Interpretation
deception	Roderigo's little white dog	I think the little white dog represents Roderigo's free will. In the opening scene, Iago holds the dog, just as he controls and holds Roderigo's free will. He's tricked Roderigo into doing what he wants and setting his plan in motion. In the bath house scene, the dog runs away from Roderigo, just as he seems to feel unsure of himself—as if Iago's hold on him is slipping. The dog seems scared and nervous, just as his inner voice knows what he's doing is wrong.

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