Of all of Shakespeare's "evil or demonic" characters, Iago is the most memorable one. He is a character who has a role, but at the same time he is also a director who directs the actions of the other characters and decides on the development of the plot of the play. He is a confidante, but at the same time he is also an enemy. He serves his master, yet he also controls his master. He plans his action and ensures the outcome, yet he has no visible motives. The duality that he constantly shows throughout the play, confirms the complexities of Iago's characters that he is not simply a man seeking vengeance. His demonic qualities can be perceived from the ambiguity of motives for vengeance that he provides and from his frequent references to the animalistic qualities in a man.

Iago’s motives for vengeance are problematic as Iago offers different motives throughout the play. Shakespeare scholars have attempted to explain some probable answers for the problem. Yet, none of the answers is definite that Iago's motives remain vague. Our activity explores the ambiguity of Iago’s motives by negating Iago’s explanations, as they do not correspond to his actions. Each group will receive a snippet of key lines from Othello. Find the lines in your full text to gain a better contextual grasp of the lines. Then analyze the following lines by:

A. Briefly summarizing what Iago is saying within the lines.
B. Discussing the significance of the key lines to the development of Iago’s character, his motivations, and the development of the play’s conflict.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1’s Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IAGO: The Moor is of a free and open nature, That thinks men honest that but seem to be so, And will as tenderly be led by th’ nose As asses are (1.3.400-3).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Brief Summary of Quote:**

**Significance:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 2’s Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IAGO: I hate the Moor; And it is thought abroad that 'twixt my sheets Has done my office. I know not if't be true; But I, for mere suspicion in that kind, Will do as if for surety (1.3.387-91).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Brief Summary of Quote:**
Group 3's Quote

IAGO: Now, I do love her [Desdemona] too,
   Not out of absolute lust, though
   peradventure
   I stand accountant for as great a sin,
   But partly led to diet my revenge,
   For that I do suspect the lusty Moor
   Hath leap'd into my seat; the thought
   whereof
   Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw
   my inwards;
   And nothing can or shall content my
   soul
   Till I am even'd with him, wife for wife
   . . . (2.1.290-8).

Brief Summary of Quote:

Significance:

Group 4's Quote

IAGO: Now, I do love her [Desdemona] too,
   Not out of absolute lust, though
   peradventure
   I stand accountant for as great a sin,
   But partly led to diet my revenge,
   For that I do suspect the lusty Moor
   Hath leap'd into my seat; the thought
   whereof
   Doth, like a poisonous mineral, gnaw
   my inwards;
   And nothing can or shall content my
soul
Till I am even'd with him, wife for wife
. . . (2.1.290-8).

Brief Summary of Quote:

Significance:

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IAGO: Our bodies are our gardens, to the which our wills are gardeners; so that if we will plant nettles or sow lettuce, set hyssop and weed up thyme, supply it with one gender of herbs or distract it with many, either to have it sterile with idleness or manur'd with industry why, the power and corrigible authority of this lies in our wills. (I.3.323-9)

Brief Summary of Quote:

Significance:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 6's Quote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IAGO</strong>: ... poison his delight, ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And, though he in a fertile climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dwell,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plague him with flies. Though that his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joy be joy,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yet throw such changes of vexation on 't</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As it may lose some color. (1.1.69-74)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Brief Summary of Quote:**

**Significance:**