**Key quotes:**

**Animalistic language – used throughout the play to dehumanise Shylock and mock Judaism.**

1. **'foot me as you spurn a stranger cur' [beginning - Shylock recalling Antonio's hatred'**

**Zoom in on:**

* Foot – means kick. Connotations of aggression. Highlights antisemitism in Elizabethan era and lack of respect for those seen as ‘other’. Links to lots of other violent verbs used throughout the play.
* Spurn – verb, connotations of lack of respect and rejection. Means a refusal to accept something/someone.
* Stranger – links to feelings of otherness
* Cur – a dog, a mongrel.

1. **'you call me misbeliever, cut throat dog' [beginning]**

**Zoom in on:**

* You call me. Direct address shows a sense of accusation that highlights the animosity between both characters. Also shows the audience the targeted nature of the prejudice as there is history between characters.
* Misbeliever – dismissal of Judaism and the reason for the animosity. The idea that religions other than Christianity don’t count is the main reason for the revenge sought. Prefix ‘mis’ means wrongly, which connotes the disapproval/ wrongly surrounding Judaism
* Cutthroat dog – again, reference to him as subhuman, lots of references to him as an animal throughout. Cutthroat suggests a view of Shylock as ruthless, which is seen as an insult at the beginning, but becomes evident as the play goes on. Is this suggesting that Shylock *is* this way, or has he been forced into becoming this way by the treatment from the Christians. Again, can link to the hypocrisy of Antonio and Shylock because they both show evidence of cut throat behaviour.

1. **'He sleeps...more than a wild cat' [Shylock hypocritically insulting Lancelet]**

**Zoom in on:**

* Interesting to see Shylock use animalistic imagery when speaking about Lancelet as he is so offended by others using it against him. Shows the hypocrisy of Shylock.
* Could be seen as evidence of his villainy
* As a description of someone, it implies a laziness and Shylock’s maltreatment of those around him
* This quote is used in a criticism of Lancelet where his Christianity is also criticised. This shows the issues around religion from both sides; religion becomes a problematic factor in society

1. **'If I am a dog, beware my fangs' [middle]**

**Zoom in on:**

* If – challenging the perception of Shylock. Suggests he recognises there is a possibility of him being this way. Is this him being sarcastic, or is this him recognising his status?
* Dog – he is using the insulting terms that have been thrown at him as a way of reappropriating language and trying to take back control.
* It is a threat
* Beware my fangs – embracing his perceived villainy. Fangs have connotations of violence. A violent dog suggests a rabid, wild nature that we see more and more throughout the play
* Interesting to consider the argument that Shakespeare humanises the Jewish character whilst outlining the many ways he has been dehumanised, especially considering the use of animalistic language to dehumanise him throughout

1. **‘You may as well question the wolf…why he hath made the ewe bleat for the lamb’ [Antonio says at end + contrast and innocence + Grat also calls him a wolf]**

**Zoom in on:**

* May as well – dismissive tone that shows Antonio feels there is no way to change the nature of a Jewish man. Consider this in context of the court scene and the power Antonio knows he has after the Duke has shown an alliance.
* Calling Shylock ‘the wolf’ . Interesting to consider the symbolism of the wolf – often seen as an isolated being (lone wolf) but also regularly viewed as a symbol of power and freedom. Is this ironic? Wolves often viewed as the villain, which is clear in the representation of Shylock.
* Contrasting description of Shylock as the wolf and Antonio as the lamb. Lambs connote innocence and vulnerability which makes Antonio appear the victim, despite his actions throughout.
* \*Interesting consideration: story of the wolf and the lamb in Isaiah 11:6 where they live in harmony despite being enemies. Could this allusion be a suggestion about peace between religions?
* ‘he hath made’ implies a force and unavoidable nature of Shylock’s actions

1. **‘Thou damned, inexecrable dog’ [Gratiano court scene]**

**Zoom in on:**

* Damned – religious language implying that Shylock will be sent to hell. Interesting to consider the frequency with which Christian language is combined with animalistic imagery when criticising Shylock
* Inexecrable – hateful, deserving to be cursed. Shows depths of negative feelings Gratiano and the Christians have for Shylock.
* Dog again repeated – 6 times in total + 4 times the word ‘cur’ is used. He is referred to as Jew 22 times, and only 17 times he is referred to by name
* Gratiano only speaks to or addresses Shylock three times. Each time is in the court scene and each time is aggressive and threatening. He calls him a dog, mocks him after Portia’s ruling and then taunts him about losing his wealth, suggesting he should hang himself. Commentary on society through actions of Gratiano’s attempts to dehumanise