

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 20

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

1	Gender Roles
2	Religion and Theocracy
3	Fertility
4	Rebellion
5	Love
6	Storytelling and Memory

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
<p>Offred sees the fancy birth day buffet laid out for the Wives, including wine and oranges. The gray-haired Wife of Warren lies on the floor as though she's about to give birth as well.</p> <p>Janine lies on the master bedroom's large bed, pushing hard, and Offred feels a little more sympathy for her. Aunt Elizabeth stands by to help, and the Handmaids sit on the floor. Offred remembers more biblical justification for Handmaids, and Aunt Lydia saying that all this would be easier for future generations, who won't have unrealistic desires.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Offred has another flashback to the Rachel and Leah Center. She remembers the weekly movie time, which reminded her of watching films in high school.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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<p>She thinks of the camera lens, as seen by primitive populations, as a “glass eye.” But instead of anthropological movies, Aunt Lydia shows sadistic porn and even a movie of a woman being killed. She also shows movies of Unwomen, feminists in this context, but without volume so the Handmaids can’t hear their ideas.</p>							
<p>In one film of the Unwomen that Aunt Lydia shows at the Rachel and Leah Center, Offred sees her mother at a feminist rally. Offred has a further flashback, to her mother talking about her decision to have a baby. She had Offred at age 37, and her feminist friends and her doctors criticized her for being too old.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Offred remembers how her lively mother would come over to dinner with her and Luke and criticize their lives. Offred’s mother criticized Offred’s absentee father, who she found perfectly nice but distracted and frivolous. Luke played the devil’s advocate, playfully fighting with Offred’s mother. But it wasn’t all joking: Offred’s mother talked about how young people didn’t understand the sacrifices of earlier feminists, and cried about how lonely she’d been.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Offred feels that her mother put a burden on her to justify her mother’s choices and existence. But although they had a rocky relationship, in the present day Offred only longs to have everything just like it was.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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