

The Handmaid's Tale Theme Wheel

The Theme Wheel, shown in full on the next page and as a smaller version here, is a visualization that shows where the themes of *The Handmaid's Tale* occur in the text.

There are three main ways to use the Theme Wheel in the classroom.

- **As a discussion topic:** The Theme Wheel can be projected, printed, and shared with students, or blown up to poster-size. In each format, it can serve as an engaging and exciting topic of discussion, both about *The Handmaid's Tale* and its themes, and also about the ways students can think about and analyze literature.
- **As inspiration:** The Theme Wheel can be used as inspiration for students to think about and design their own “book visualizations” that show the important aspects of a book visually. For additional inspiration on this topic, search the web for “book visualizations.”
- **As a project:** In addition to our completed Theme Wheel, we also provide you with a blank Theme Wheel. The blank version includes the inner red ring that represents the chapters of the text, but leaves all of the other parts of the Theme Wheel empty. Students can work alone, in groups, or as a class to track the themes of the book (perhaps by using our Close Reading Organizers) and then create their own Theme Wheel to represent those themes. We provide two blank versions of the Theme Wheel, one that lists the LitCharts themes in the Themes Key, and one that allows your students to create their own set of themes.

