

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 25

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
Offred wakes suddenly when Cora drops the breakfast tray. She'd fallen asleep in the closet, which greatly alarms Cora for some reason. Offred lies and says she must have fainted in the closet, which makes Cora excited about it being an early sign of pregnancy. Offred and Cora decide that it's less suspicious just to lie that Cora dropped the tray on her way out. Offred is pleased that Cora is willing to deal with Rita's displeasure on her behalf.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The narrative jumps forward. All the previous action took place in May, and now it's summertime, and the tulips are gone. Returning from a grocery trip, Offred sees Serena Joy cutting off the tulips' seed pods, destroying the fruit to make next year's flowers better.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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Offred wishes she had the shears.							
Offred thinks more about the garden, the irises and bleeding hearts that seem so feminine and dramatic that she finds them “subversive.” The flowers manage to break through the earth and make themselves known, and the whole atmosphere is romantic and luxurious. Offred continues to enjoy tempting the checkpoint guards, and wishes for winter to keep her in check.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Offred and the Commander continue to meet in secret, when Nick signals, either by polishing the car when Offred walks by, or wearing his hat incorrectly. Offred finds it difficult to sneak around Serena Joy , and sometimes can’t make the appointments. Sometimes Serena Joy goes out at night to visit sick Wives. For the Wives, being sick is fun, but sick Handmaids and Marthas mysteriously disappear.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
At first Offred found the Commander’s requests funny and anticlimactic, compared to the sexual perversions she’d expected. At their second meeting, they played more Scrabble and Offred realized that he’d let her win at the last meeting. Then the Commander gave Offred a Vogue magazine to read. Before Gilead, Offred hadn’t cared much for these magazines, but now she desperately wanted to read it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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At first, Offred turned down the Vogue, but the Commander said that she was allowed to read it. Offred notes the almost masculine confidence of the supermodels, and their makeup . Though Aunt Lydia would find this evil, Offred just finds it “naughty.”	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Offred asked why the Commander had saved a magazine that should have been burned, and the Commander said that certain people could keep what the masses shouldn’t. After he sadly said that he didn’t have anyone else to show it to, Offred boldly suggested that he could have shown it to Serena Joy . The Commander explained that he and his wife didn’t communicate, and Offred understood why the Commander wanted to see her instead.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
At their third meeting, Offred requested lotion. The Commander laughed at the fact that she’d been using butter, and she felt angry. He gave her the lotion four days later, and she explained that she couldn’t keep it in her room. The Commander hadn’t even realized the degree to which the Handmaids were spied on, and Offred became angry explaining it to him. But he told her she could keep the lotion in his office.	1	2	3	4	5	6	