

## Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 15 **Sample Answers**

**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.

Note: There is not always a definitive set of “correct” answers for which themes should appear in the Theme Tracker. Answers that differ from the ones we propose below should therefore not automatically be treated as incorrect, and in fact can serve as great discussion starters.

### Themes Key

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

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
The gray-haired, neat <b>Commander</b> arrives, wearing a black suit. He unlocks the Bible from its box and sits down to read. <b>Offred</b> tries to imagine his point of view, scrutinized like this. She imagines his penis as a slug <b>eye</b> . She knows he’s very powerful, and can’t tell if his position is fine or hellish. The Commander reads biblical passages about fertility.	1	2	3	4	5	6	In our first real-time glimpse of the Commander, Offred pictures his sexuality as disgusting and crude. Her mental rebellions seem to help her cope with the pressure of the meeting, as she is the one who’s supposed to bring fertility.
<b>Offred</b> has a flashback to the Rachel and Leah Center, and remembers listening to a tape recording of the Beatitudes	1	2	3	4	5	6	The edited biblical passages show that the government of Gilead isn’t simply trying to interpret the Bible, but to twist it to suit their

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

<p>at lunch, clearly an edited version, although Offred wasn't sure what had been omitted.</p>							<p>politicized goals and interpretations.</p>
<p><b>Offred</b> remembers meeting up again with <b>Moira</b> in the bathroom. Moira planned to escape by pretending to be sick, and perhaps trying to seduce the ambulance drivers.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	<p>Offred, too, has fantasies about seducing men to gain power, but only Moira dared to try.</p>
<p>Back in the present time, the <b>Commander</b> finishes reading. <b>Offred</b> imagines the bible pages feeling powder-paper <b>makeup</b>. <b>Serena Joy</b> silently cries. As Offred prays "Nolite te bastardes carborundorum," she remembers seeing <b>Moira</b> carried to an ambulance for appendicitis at the Rachel and Leah Center. Right afterwards, Moira was dragged back into the Rachel and Leah Center and the staff severely tortured her feet. The other Handmaids stole sugar for her in a gesture of solidarity. Back in present time, the Commander dismisses the household.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	<p>Moira, like Offred in her way, is more interested in saving her own skin than organizing the other Handmaids into revolution. Moira's escape and capture may have led the other Handmaids into the small-scale rebellion of stealing, but on the whole, the severity of her punishment may have actually made the Handmaids more afraid.</p>