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Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 38

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
An Aunt with a cattle prod tells Offred she has fifteen minutes. Offred enters a ladies' lounge, with has a mirror, unlike at her house. Moir a comes out of the bathroom and hugs Offred, with her familiar no-nonsense attitude. Moira has slept with Offred's Commander before, and says Commanders bring Handmaids as a "power trip," though Offred believes he has more complex reasons.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Moir a tells Offred her story over two bathroom trips, and Offred tries to tell it to her audience in Moira's voice, adding to the bare-bones version Moira told her. Moira explained that, after tying up Aunt Elizabeth , she left without a real plan, and managed to make it through the checkpoints faking an Aunt-style	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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<p>frown. She made her way to a Quaker household she remembered from her feminist press's mailing list, remarking that she might have given away the names of all the people on the list when she was tortured.</p>							
<p>The Quaker couple let Moira in, and gave her clothes, although they were nervous keeping her since they had two little children. They brought her to another Quaker family that was part of the Underground Femaleroad. A post office worker helped Moira move to a new station, and later was executed and displayed on the Wall.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Moira felt guilty that people were risking their lives for her, but her hosts explained that they helped because of their religion. This was before Gilead started gathering up the Christian sects it disagreed with. Moira spent eight or nine months on the Femaleroad and made it to Maine, but for unknown reasons, someone tipped off the authorities and they came for Moira and the couple helping her. Moira remembered how Aunt Lydia enjoyed torturing her. In the Eyes' van, Moira wanted to commit suicide but was unable.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>They brought Moira to some other place that she doesn't want to talk about. After torture, they showed Moira a video about the Colonies. At some Colonies, women must burn dead bodies. At others, people have to clean up toxic waste or</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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<p>radiation, and since it's cheaper not to feed the workers well or give them proper protection, they all die in around three years. There might be other Colonies that are more like regular farms, but Moira didn't hear about them. The women in the Colonies are either old women, failed Handmaids, or rebels. Men make up a quarter of the population. Everyone (even men) wears gray dresses.</p>							
<p>Moira picked Jezebel's over the Colonies. She'll manage to stay there three or four years before her "snatch wears out," and she can have alcohol and drugs. Here Offred interjects, shocked at Moira's listlessness. She's lost her essential spark and bravery, and Offred feels she's lost a hero. Moira makes a joke about the club being "butch paradise," to make Offred feel better.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Offred wishes she could tell her audience a story about Moira managing to escape or blowing up Jezebel's. But Offred doesn't know what became of Moira, since they never saw each other again.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	