Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 16 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
Offred lies on her back on **Serena Joy**'s canopy bed, clothed except for her underpants. The bed's draperies look like ship's sails, pregnant with air. Offred lies between Serena Joy's (clothed) legs, and they hold hands. The **Commander** has sex with Offred's lower body, in an impersonal, disjointed style, which Offred doesn't call rape because she chose to be a Handmaid. The atmosphere is serious, as arousal, love, and kissing are unnecessary. Offred remembers her previous Commander, who	1	2	3	4	5	6	This scene is the meat of what being a Handmaid is all about—being a body, a receptacle for sex. Maybe unexpectedly, Offred doesn't picture Luke or love, but remains emotionally removed, simply glad the current Commander doesn't have a bad odor. In the moment when her imagination could have served her, she prefers seriousness.

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smelled worse.							
After coming, the **Commander** leaves quickly and politely, which **Offred** finds somehow funny. **Serena Joy** makes Offred leave immediately, although she's supposed to lie down for ten minutes to increase the chances of conception.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Serena Joy's action shows that, for now, woman-on-woman hatred outweighs her desire to have a baby at all costs.