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Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 28

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
<p>Offred sits at the window of her room, still excited about her encounter with Ofglen. She's been given an electric fan, and she imagines that Moirra would know how to make it into a weapon. Moira would probably dislike Offred's deal with the Commander, since she thought Offred was wrong to take Luke from another woman. On the other hand, Moira liked women and didn't mind stealing them.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Offred delves into a specific memory of talking to Moirra in Offred's kitchen. Offred worked at an insurance company and lived in a run-down house. She told Moira that she couldn't create a perfect life just by ignoring men. Moira disagreed, and the friends laughed that they sounded like Offred's mother.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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<p>Later, Offred moved to a better apartment for two years until Luke got his divorce. She worked digitizing a library, sometimes saving the books that were destined to be shredded. Back in the current time, Offred ponders the strange fact that millions of women used to have jobs. She thinks about the old dollar bills, no longer in existence.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Offred thinks that the lack of paper money made it easier for the Gilead authorities to take power. After an unnamed “catastrophe,” the Gilead leaders killed the president and Congress, and “Islamic fanatics” got the blame. The army, in a state of emergency, said that it had to temporarily stop using the Constitution. Offred was shocked at the sudden collapse of the government, but Moira understood that there were deeper goals than chaos.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>The Gilead authorities began to make changes in the name of security, such as shuttering newspapers, adding roadblocks, and closing down “Pornomarts” and “Feels on Wheels vans.” Generally people accepted these measures, feeling safe. But one September day, when Offred and Luke had been married for years and their daughter was three or four, Offred found that her money card for her Compucount didn’t work anymore, despite her thousands in the bank.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Later that day, Offred’s boss at</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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<p>the library, seeming unbalanced and distracted, fired her and all the other female employees, saying the law required him to. In the hall outside were two men with machine guns. The women were confused but didn't rally or try to fight back. Offred thought that she and the others even felt ashamed.</p>							
<p>Offred returned home, restless and nervous. She managed to reach Moira, who had been working for a women's publishing company. Moira came over, and explained that every woman's bank account had been suspended, and their money transferred to male family members. Moira seemed happy and determined. Moira understood that, if the new government hadn't made it impossible, all the women would be trying to leave the country.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Offred picked up her daughter, and Luke came home. He tried to comfort Offred by saying that the measures were temporary and "it's only a job," but Offred felt he didn't understand, and he was even being patronizing. She pointed out that he got all her money. When she described the scene of her firing to him, she realized that the army men with machine guns didn't belong to the US Army.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>There were only small protest marches, quickly controlled by the army shooting all the protesters. There were also some bombings, but maybe the army set them off too. Luke</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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<p>encouraged Offred not to go protest, and she didn't, and became a stay-at-home housewife. Offred and others were afraid to say anything that might get them reported.</p>							
<p>Offred goes into a further-back memory, from when she was a teenager. She remembered her mother coming back from a march perhaps about abortions, with noisy, combative female friends whom Offred found annoying. Offred used to wish her mother would be less brazen. But now Offred misses her.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Back in the present time, Offred watches Nick go out into the garden, and admires his body. She sees his hat is askew, which means Offred will see the Commander tonight. Offred wonders what Nick thinks of her trysts with the Commander, and if he imagines that Offred and the Commander are having depraved sex.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Offred remembers back to the day she lost her job, when Luke wanted to have sex and she didn't. Offred felt that the balance of power had shifted, that he still had everything that she had lost, that she was his possession, and that he might even like the way that events had turned. But she never asked him. From her faraway position, she asks Luke if she was right.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	