

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 29

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 plays Scrabble in the Commander's office, at ease in her chair, perfecting the scene by imagining a fire in the fireplace. She finds the Commander father-like, and maybe even friendlier than Luke. Still, she wonders the goal of his kindness. He allows her to read magazines and even books by Charles Dickens or Raymond Chandler. But tonight she wants to talk to him about himself. He says he used to be a market researcher and is now some kind of scientist. Offred daringly asks him what "Nolite te bastardes carborundorum" means, and writes it for him.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>The Commander says it's only joke Latin, from his schoolboy days. He shows Offred an old textbook with different Latin jokes, and explains that the</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

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<p>phrase means “Don’t let the bastards grind you down.” Offred understands that the previous Handmaid must have learned the phrase from the Commander.</p>							
<p>Offred simply asks what became of “her,” and the Commander knows what she’s asking. He says that the previous Handmaid hanged herself, which is why they plastered over the place where there used to be a hanging light. Cora found her, and so Offred understands Cora’s overreaction when Offred fell asleep in the closet.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Offred realizes that the Commander has been spending time with her to raise her spirits, so she won’t do the same as the previous Handmaid. Offred says that maybe she shouldn’t come to his office anymore. She realizes that his own guilt is motivating this kindness. To discourage her leaving, he asks what she wants, and she says she wants to know what’s happening.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	