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Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 1 **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 novel begins with the first-person narrator, Offred , describing the old gymnasium where she has been sleeping, and the sense of longing and loss in the atmosphere. The room feels layered with long-gone emotions of high school dances and romance. She and other women sleep on army-issue cots while Aunt Sara and Aunt Elizabeth keep watch, carrying cattle prods.	1	2	3	4	5	6	The book’s first image emphasizes the way that memory and old emotions sprout up through the strict new world order. But Offred won’t answer all our questions right away, describing the scene without explaining.
Aunt Sara and Aunt Elizabeth aren’t allowed to have guns, the narrator	1	2	3	4	5	6	Right away, Offred shows the importance of hierarchy and gender roles in this

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explains. The guards outside, specialty members of a group called the Angels, have guns, but they aren't allowed to enter, just as the women aren't allowed to exit except for two walks per day.							society. As bad as the Aunts are, there's something worse waiting outside.
Offred , like the other women, wishes that she could speak to the guards, longing for some "deal" with them that she could make with her body.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Offred's sole power is located in her body, which she knows the men will still respond to.
Though Offred and the other women aren't allowed to speak to each other, they manage to draw each other's attention and quietly whisper at night, when the Aunts aren't looking. They tell each other their names, including Janine and Moir .	1	2	3	4	5	6	The women assert their memories and their personhood by rebelling, in an act as simple as telling each other their names.