



Unit: The Handmaid's Tale	
Learning Sequence	<div> <div> 1. Modern Literature: What do I know about modern literature? 2. Speculative Fiction: What inspired Atwood to write The Handmaid's Tale? 3. Epigraphs: How does Atwood establish the story world through the epigraphs? 4. Setting: How does Atwood use the setting of the gymnasium in Chapter 1 to create a sense of disorientation? 5. The Oppression of Women: How does Atwood present oppression of women through their lack of individual identity in Chapter 2? 6. Characterisation of Serena Joy: How does Atwood characterise Serena Joy? 7. Doubling: How does Atwood use the motif of doubling in Chapter 3? 8. Desire: How is desire represented in chapter 4? 9. Desire Essay: How does Atwood present the theme of desire? 10. Dystopian Conventions: How does the dystopian story world develop in Chapters 5 and 6? 11. Feminism in 1970s-1980s America: How is Chapter 7 dependent on historicist </div> <div> 17. Characterisation of Janine: Why is Janine shown no comfort or empathy? 18. Characterisation of Moira: How is Moira a symbol of resistance and hope? 19. Historicist Theory: What is the significance of the reference to the Nazi mistress in Chapter 24? 20. Attitudes to Women: How does Atwood use the Commander to present attitudes towards women in the regime? 21. Narrative Structure: Why does Atwood make the narrative gather pace in Chapter 26? 22. Shopping: How does Atwood use Ofglen and Offred's shopping trip to reveal new information about the story world in Chapter 28? 23. Activism versus Passivity: How does Atwood present activism and passivity in Chapter 28? 24. The Commander: How is the Commander a prisoner of the system he created? 25. Serena Joy: How does the relationship between Offred and Serena Joy develop? 26. Patriarchy and Power: To what extent is the sexism in Gilead a result of fear of women's power? 27. Power Essay: How does Atwood present the theme of power in The Handmaid's Tale? 28. Prayvaganza: How does the Prayvaganza reinforce Gileadean values? 29. Ignorance and Misinformation: In what ways is the Commander totally misinformed about </div> <div> 33. Moira: How does the development of Moira's character in Chapter 38 challenge the reader's expectations? 34. Offred's mother: How is Offred's mother presented in Chapter 39? 35. Fantasy and Reality: Why does Offred's character often fantasise and rewrite history, only to offer the truth to the reader later? 36. Fantasy and Reality Essay: How does Atwood present the dichotomy between fantasy and reality through narrative voice and structure? 37. Human Nature: What is Atwood presenting about human nature in Chapter 41? 38. Salvaging: How does Atwood use narrative tense to make the reader complicit in the Salvaging? 39. Offred's Detachment: How and why does Atwood present Offred's detachment? 40. Communication: How does the suppression of communication lead to loneliness and doubt? </div> </div>

	<p>knowledge of the Feminist Movement in 1970s/80s America?</p> <p>12. Characterisation of Luke: How does Atwood characterise Luke (Chapter 9) and how is the regime presented (Chapter 10)?</p> <p>13. Morality and Survival: How does the doctor present a moral dilemma in Chapter 11?</p> <p>14. Seduction and Power: How are seduction and power linked as themes within the novel so far?</p> <p>15. The Ceremony: How is the Ceremony presented?</p> <p>16. The Female Body: How does Atwood show that women are no longer in control of their own bodies?</p>	<p>the social, emotional and professional needs of women in Chapter 34?</p> <p>30. Fragmentation: Why is the narrative fragmented?</p> <p>31. Hypocrisy: How is hypocrisy a key theme in Chapter 36?</p> <p>32. Jezebels: How does The Commander's club contravene the moral laws of Gilead?</p>	<p>41. The Historical Notes: Why do the Historical Notes create a sense of narrative distance?</p> <p>42. The Historical Notes: What is Atwood communicating through the dominance of male voices in The Historical Notes?</p> <p>43. Review: Can I review the development of key themes in The Handmaid's Tale?</p>
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Knowledge & Skills development	<p><u>Contextual Knowledge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the social, historical and literary context of The Handmaid's Tale and how it influences understanding of the text • Understand the evolution of feminism <p><u>Writers' Craft</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key terminology related to language, structure, literary devices and narrative methods • The effect of language, structure, literary devices and narrative methods • How writers create and develop themes through language, structure and characterisation • Explore the effect of recurring motifs and themes throughout the novel <p><u>Analytical Writing Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to analyse language • How to analyse structure • How to analyse narrative methods • How to closely annotate the text to effectively analyse language choices and effect • How to develop the depth and detail of analytical writing • How to plan and approach a comparison essay • How to write a detailed comparison essay • The essential components of a successful examination response • How to revise • Key quotations for effective examination responses 		
Assessment / Feedback Opportunities	<p><i>Formative Assessment</i></p> <p>Student Presentations</p> <p>Mid-Point Exam Question</p> <p>Mid-Point Knowledge Check</p>	<p><i>Summative assessment</i></p> <p>End-Point Exam Question</p> <p>End-Point Knowledge Check</p>	
Key Vocabulary	<p>Bathos</p> <p>Decorum</p> <p>Dissident</p> <p>Façade</p>	<p>Analepsis</p> <p>Dystopian</p> <p>Epigraph</p> <p>Patronyms</p>	

	Illicit Palimpsest	Theocracy
Literacy/Reading opportunities	https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/aug/10/speculative-or-science-fiction-as-margaret-atwood-shows-there-isnt-much-distinction https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/10/books/review/margaret-atwood-handmaids-tale-age-of-trump.html https://www.penguin.co.uk/discover/articles/margaret-atwood-handmaids-tale-testaments-real-life-inspiration The Power by Naomi Alderman The Testaments by Margaret Atwood	
Cross Curricular Themes	Geography: The significance of place in The Handmaid's Tale and the underlying theme of environmentalism History: Parallels to totalitarian regimes and specific reference to the Nazi regime Religious Studies: The creation of an imaginary theocratic society: Gilead Science: Fertility and infertility	
Personal Development (Including British Values, RSE, Citizenship)	Democracy and Rule of Law: The loss of individual identity explored through the theocratic society Individual liberty: Lack of freedom explored	
Career Opportunities	Advertising, marketing, writing, journalism, law, consultancy, business, teaching, performing arts, academia, linguistics, foreign languages and media	