

1. What are the women's reactions to the pregnant Handmaid?

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CH.

2. What is the purpose of the Wall?

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5 - 6

3. Who or what is currently on the Wall? What provides relief to Offred?

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1. Why is the night special and significant to Offred?

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2. As Moira becomes more fully fleshed out, who does she become in the reader's perspective?

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CH.

7 - 8

3. What is the child Offred's reaction to the porn cover? How is this different from the expected reaction?

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4. Why would Offred "like to believe this is a story [she's] telling [?] [She] need[s] to believe it."

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5. What is “Gender Treachery”?

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6. In her thoughts, Offred ponders the significance of the different possible meanings of “Mayday”. Where did it derive from?

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7. What is the circumstance of the chance meeting on the sidewalk between the Econowives and the Handmaid and how does each react to the other? If a miscarried fetus may or may not be an “Unbaby”, what exactly is an “Unbaby?”

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8. At their routine parting, at which they have each offered the “right” farewell, Offred thinks of Ofglen that “she’s like my own reflection in a mirror from which I am moving away.” What is significant about the fact that Ofglen is so similar to Offred? Is her loyalty a façade, as Offred’s is, or do you believe it is truly genuine?

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9. When Aunt Lydia says “All flesh is weak,” and Offred mentally corrects her, “All flesh is grass,” what do you think she means? Explain the allusion.

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10. Explain the situational irony in Serena Joy making a career of making speeches about women and the sanctity of the home.

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11. Analyze the encounter between the Commander and Offred at the end of Chapter 8. What is significant about Offred’s emotions? How does she refer to her room?

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