

Lit log #2

The impermanence of memories through a playlist. Times Offred has struggled with memory or remembered certain details. “Memories fade” playlist.

Stay Gold by Stevie Wonder

This song by Stevie Wonder from “The Outsiders” soundtrack references the importance of memories. The line “All things that happen will age to old, though gold, gold, gold, gold.” This line talks about how the present moment is temporary but you can recognize the importance of these memories and use them as happy reflective moments in the future. I relate this to Offred’s use of memories in *The Handmaid’s Tale* because she uses memories to comfort herself when alone or dealing with hard times. Her memories serve as motivation throughout the book as well. “We thought we had such problems. How were we to know that we were happy?” This quote on page 48 by Offred reflects something similar to the song. The idea that you don’t know how valuable something is until it’s over.

I Love Kanye

“I Love Kanye” is a song by Kanye West from his 2016 album “The Life Of Pablo.” This song is from the perspective of one of his fans who doesn’t like the person that the artist has become. “I miss the old Kanye.” Is the opening line to this song. This song serves both as a commentary to the feedback the artist has gotten from his fans about his previous music and his previous attitude, but also serves as a reflection from the artist about himself. I compare this to page 97 of *The Handmaid’s Tale* when Offred says, “I repeat my former name, remind myself of what I once could do, how others saw me.” In this quote Offred is saying a similar thing that Kanye West was saying on his song; reflecting on her former self, speaking on what she used to do and who she is now.

Bad Religion

Bad Religion is a song by the RnB and soul artist Frank Ocean off his 2012 record *Channel Orange*.

This album is recognizable for its soulful production and Frank's storytelling nature throughout the album. In the song Bad Religion Frank speaks from the perspective of somebody who is in love with somebody who doesn't share the same feelings. He sees loving somebody who doesn't love you back as worshipping a false god, or a "bad religion." This reminded me of the relationship that The Commander and Offred have, The Commander wants so badly to have an intimate connection while Offred doesn't feel the same way. Because love can only be shared mutually, The Commander is in somewhat of a bad religion.

I'VE OFFICIALLY LOST VISION!!!!!!

"I'VE OFFICIALLY LOST VISION!!!!!!" is a song by the rapper and artist Lil Yachty off his 2024 album "Let's Start Here." In my opinion, this is Lil Yachty's best album from a technical standpoint. Usually, you can put Lil Yachty's music in a box by calling it contemporary rap, but Yachty blew critics away with this psych-rock masterpiece. In the song, I'VE OFFICIALLY LOST VISION!!!!!! Yachty refers to

feeling stuck by the constraints of society and how he uses psychedelics like LSD to free himself from this prison. Close to the end of the song Yachty sings, “I’ve officially lost vision, I’ve been sent to a mental prison, I’ve been forced to make some terribly bad decisions.” I relate this to Offred’s life, at the beginning of the book Offred is fully trapped by this society, she is forced to lose her daughter, her name, and her identity. She lost the vision of who she was as a person. But as the book progresses her vision becomes clear, she starts to remember who she is, what she was, and what she’s done. For Yachty his inspiration came through drugs, for Offred, it was a struggle.

Fake Plastic Trees

“Fake Plastic Trees” is a song by Radiohead from their 1995 album, “The Bends.” This is one of the saddest Radiohead songs I’ve heard—just from the vibe and chords alone. In this song, Radiohead speaks of two different characters, a girl, her dad, and a first-person character. The girl lives in a “fake, plastic world.” Everything about her life is plastic, her

town is plastic, her love is plastic, and the things she owns are plastic. In this context, plastic is manufactured, cheap, and just fake. The lyrics "She looks like the real thing, she tastes like the real thing, my fake plastic love," refer to the protagonist's love for this female character they're singing about. He feels like their love is manufactured or fake. I relate this to the love that the commander had for Offred in *The Handmaid's Tale*. In chapter 23 The Commander says "I want you to kiss me" "As if you mean it." He says this to Offred when they are making out because he doesn't feel like it is passionate enough. He wanted real love and Offred didn't feel the same.