

# Metaphorical Speakings Through Doctors' Office Scenes & Experiences :

College English

Ms Pahomov

Qwazir James

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When reading *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, numerous significant moments and ideas emerge throughout the book. However, one main section that I would like to focus on is chapter 11, specifically the doctor's office scene. It starts with “ Yesterday morning I went to the doctor and I was taken by a Guardian”. At first, my reaction at the beginning was ok, this seems like any other ordinary thing. However, when we get to page 60, this is where things start to get weird. It says” The finger retreats, enters otherwise with draws, he says almost to himself, any pain, honey?”. When reading this, I was slightly confused, as most of this scene is very creepy and weird, but he calls her honey almost as if they are together or something. He seems to be over-sexualizing the woman, trying to call her these names, and also saying, “ I could help you.”

He was making the woman seem like she was just a symbol or something to him, as there are a lot of metaphors used in this book as well, which makes the story more intriguing. I was thinking, ok, how much weirder can this get, and then he says,” Most of those old guys can’t make it anymore, or they're sterile, and she gasps at the word sterile”. What I thought that the doctor was trying to say was that the woman is only there for the children and to have kids and nothing else. This has been a big thing used in real life, as there have been plenty of examples where women have been known to be housewives and

things, and it made me think about that and the metaphorical thing in a sense of being sterile.

Like what does that really mean The author seemed to strictly focus on being sterile It made me think about when he talked about the older guys not being able to have kids it made me think, when reading later in the book when the woman was acting out, having a kid made me think that the women were supposed to be sterile or at least that is how I interpreted it especially when we get to the next part of the scene in which he says "Give me children or else I die" This really made me confused and just think like so is the author saying this doctor without kids will actually die or is it a metaphorical term in which he is saying without you I will die but not literally. There is so much metaphorical speaking in this book, especially in this scene at the doctor's office, where a lot of it can be interpreted in so many different ways regarding this scene. This scene made me feel really uncomfortable, as I won't get into the details of my entire situation, but I have had those very uncomfortable moments in my life where I feel sort of a connection to Offred, and having this happen at the doctor's office. My experience isn't the same as the doctor's office scene, but it is similar.

As I was reading this, my reaction was confusion, shock. It brought back my own experience when I was younger and having things happen to me that I won't get all the way into details about when it comes to that. Still, I will just say that some things happened similar to this situation, and it made me feel really uncomfortable in a lot of ways, and I felt the same way reading this scene, although my situation is maybe on the same level or a little worse than this one. I immediately felt the sense of sympathy and compassion towards Offred, as I know what it is like to go through this, and it sort of brought back the memories that I have had as a kid growing up, and it sort of just gave me a little bit of that weird feeling that I was back in that area. I just really feel for the character, and while doing this examination, it made me examine my bad experience that I had in my life, and that reflection brought back all of my memories to that situation. With that being said, this doctor's office scene is a good scene to go in depth on, as it is an important part of the book that shows how bad society really is and how things can get really weird

fast. This book has many different good moments in this book and this was a good scene to do on which is why I picked this scene, but this is the significance of this scene.