

Our class discussion and analysis of *The Handmaid's Tale* has centered heavily on literary, thematic analysis -- for this assignment, you are invited to use our close reading skills to make more personal and creative connections. You will turn in **TWO lit logs** to help you to synthesize and process what you've read and deepen your understanding of the novel. There are four prompts -- choose any two to complete.

Each Lit Log should:

- Present your unique, insightful, specific response to the prompt - the opposite of generic
- Include evidence of close reading -- multiple direct quotes from the text (with page numbers)
- meet a target length of 750 words
- Have an engaging title
- be posted on the class Slate blog on the date it is due
- be submitted as a link on Canvas for credit

LIT LOG DUE DATES

#1 - Monday, 9/29

#2 - Monday, 10/12

(Respond to a different prompt for each deadline)

Lit Log Assignment Options

1. Track your own intellectual and emotional experience through a **close reading** of a particular section. You are encouraged to tackle sections that you have found confusing, uncomfortable, or intriguing. You can write this in first person, citing specific examples from this selection as well as other parts of the novel that connect these ideas. Your selected text can be as short as one sentence or paragraph, and should not be from one of the sections we've used as an all-class close reading.
2. Create a **visual representation** of a scene or a moment from the reading. Include a write-up explanation of the piece. What is your artwork about? Why did you make the choices you made to create the scene in this way? What is portrayed in your scene and why is it significant? (500 word count minimum for the artist's statement, separate from artwork)
3. Write a **reader response** journal entry. What about this selection resonates with you? What connections can you make to your own life and personal history? Cite specific examples from the selection, as well as specific stories from your life and experiences, then discuss why you react to them the way you do.
4. Even though music is entirely absent from Gilead, make a **playlist** for what you've been reading. Identify five songs that you would include as connections to specific moments, characters, motifs, or themes of the novel. For each song, write an explanation analyzing how the song connects to events in the novel using specific textual evidence to cite the novel. This submission must include an audio component: you may select to record your entire analysis including clips from the songs into a single file, or you may choose to add playable YouTube links into your Slate post. (Please do not research the Hulu show and pull from its playlist. This will bum us out and earn an automatic zero.)

Rubric for Grading (Each Lit Log is worth 20 total points)

An assignment that **exceeds expectations**:

DESIGN // Lit Log engages with the prompt in a specific, insightful way, avoiding generic and surface-level commentary.

KNOWLEDGE // All claims and evidence are accurate and text-based.

APPLICATION // Writer demonstrates “reading between the lines” of the text; close reading is evident in deep analysis.

PRESENTATION // Lit Log is the appropriate length and format, has an engaging title, and is proofread to be free of errors in grammar and mechanics.

PROCESS // Thorough evidence of your original thought and composition process -- including hand-written notes -- is included in this google doc template. (Projects without this will not be scored.)

PROCESS DOCUMENTATION -- in this box, include evidence of your mind at work: brainstormers or partial drafts in your class notebook, rough drafts of artwork, typed stream-of-consciousness while you listen to potential playlist songs, etc.

This story discusses how women are being exploited as a means to an end by men. The women are trying to get close to them and hoping that they can bear a child. The question for this story is, how does religion influence people & spark fear? The story that we are looking into is called “The Handmaid's Tale.” This story is all about men being more powerful than women, and every woman that are under their followership is trying to get close to them, and tries to have a child with one of them. This story also shows that there is a $\frac{1}{4}$ chance of having a healthy child being born, while the other $\frac{3}{4}$ chance is of children being born unhealthy and may die after being born.

Quotes:

“I pray silently: Nolite te bastardes carborundorum. I don't know what it means, but it sounds right, and it will have to do, because I don't know what else I can say to God.” (Pg90)

Lit Log Final Draft Here:

This story discusses how women are being exploited as a means to an end by men. The women are trying to get close to them and hoping that they can bear a child. The question for this story is, how does religion influence people & spark fear? The story that we are looking into is called "The Handmaid's Tale." This story is all about men being more powerful than women, and every woman that are under their followership is trying to get close to them, and tries to have a child with one of them. This story also shows that there is a $\frac{1}{4}$ chance of having a healthy child being born, while the other $\frac{3}{4}$ chance is of children being born unhealthy and may die after being born.

In "The Handmaid's Tale," there are a lot of women who are under a religion where they are being used to give birth to one of the commanders. There are different rankings for women, and they are "The Aunts," and they are the elderly ladies who have an education and give the Handmaid's some lessons about how to be a Handmaid. "The Marthas" are just cleaners who are also invisible to other people. "The Handmaid's" are servants to the commanders and bear their children. "The Unwomen" are scared to become a Handmaid because they don't want to become part of that religion where they have to bear someone's children, and want to escape the place. The men have their own rankings, and they are "The Guards," who are the protectors of the Handmaid's, making sure that nothing happens to them. "The Angels" run the society, meaning they are in charge of guarding the front lines, and they are also trusted with upholding. "The Commanders" are basically running the whole thing. "The Eyes" are mysterious because they are always undercover, seeing if the Handmaid's were spreading information with them.

In one of the texts, Offred was in a ceremony, and the commanders told them to pray. This is what the text said, "I pray silently: Nolite te bastardes carborundorum. I don't know what it means, but it sounds right, and it will have to do, because I don't know what else I can say to God." (Pg90) Offred didn't know the meaning of what it meant, and the praying word was in Latin so they never know what it meant. I am also in confusion with my religion because I'm not really interested in my religion, but my mom does this every day, and she would always chant something, and I never fully understand what it even means at all. My family's religion is all about Buddhism, and only my mom and my aunt are the only ones who do this every morning.