

Chapter 1

What is the most likely definition of the word “pungent” on page 3?

- a) smelly
- b) gross
- c) salty
- d) strong

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

The following are definitions for the word “thong,” as provided by dictionary.com.

- 1. a body of persons adhering to a particular religious faith; a religious denomination.
- 2. a group regarded as heretical or as deviating from a generally accepted religious tradition.
(in the sociology of religion) a Christian denomination characterized by insistence on strict qualifications for membership, as distinguished from the more inclusive groups called churches.
- 3. any group, party, or faction united by a specific doctrine or under a doctrinal leader

What is the best definition of the word “thong” as it is used on page 4?

- a) definition 1
- b) definition 2
- c) definition 3
- d) definition 4

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

Chapter 2

What does the narrator imply by saying, “It’s those other escapes, the ones you can open in yourself, given a cutting edge,” and how are these “escapes” safeguarded against in the room. Explain using textual details for support.

The Handmaid's Tale TAKS Q's, Sections I-V (Chapters 1-13)
Parental permission required to read this novel as a freshman.

Chapter 3

Explain how the phrase “the grass is always greener on the other side” relates to chapter 3. Use textual details for support.

Chapter 4

“Perhaps he is an Eye” is an example of

- a) simile
- b) metaphor
- c) personification
- d) imagery

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

Explain what the phrase, “nobody’s heart is perfect” (p22) implies. Use textual details for support.

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Chapter 5

What can the reader infer from the statements: “Doctors lived here once, lawyers, university professors. There are no lawyers anymore, and the university is closed”?

- a) the city has suffered a natural disaster
- b) education has been outlawed
- c) people have gone into hiding
- d) the neighborhood has become impoverished

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

What is the denotation of *habits* in the statement, “Some people call them *habits*, a good word for them”?

- a) clothes
- b) nuns
- c) routines that are hard to break
- d) routines imposed by others

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

What is the connotation of “habits” in the statement, “Habits are hard to break”?

- a) clothes
- b) nuns
- c) routines that are hard to break
- d) routines imposed by others

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

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Chapter 6

Those hanging from the Wall were most likely

- a) doctors who were pro-life
- b) doctors who were pro-choice
- c) nurses who worked with doctors
- d) pharmacists who worked with doctors

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

Chapter 7

What does the narrator mean when she says, "But the night is my time out. Where should I go?"

- a) she is calling her friends to go out
- b) she is recalling her old memories
- c) she has the freedom to walk around the house
- d) she can have an out of body experience

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

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Chapter 8

The following are all definitions for the word “sect,” as provided by dictionary.com.

1. a body of persons adhering to a particular religious faith; a religious denomination.
2. a group regarded as heretical or as deviating from a generally accepted religious tradition.
(in the sociology of religion) a Christian denomination characterized by insistence on
3. strict qualifications for membership, as distinguished from the more inclusive groups called churches.
4. any group, party, or faction united by a specific doctrine or under a doctrinal leader.

Which is the most likely definition for “sect” as it is used on page 43?

- a) definition 1
- b) definition 2
- c) definition 3
- d) definition 4

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

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What is the author’s purpose in having the narrator reveal the etymology of “Mayday”?

- a) to foreshadow events
- b) to create credible flashbacks
- c) to reinforce the narrator’s situation
- d) to teach the reader a valuable phrase in another language

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

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Chapter 9

The best explanation for writing and reading being outlawed for women is

- a) women can't be trusted
- b) uneducated people will believe educated people
- c) women aren't as smart as men
- d) learning the truth will lead to a revolution

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

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Read the following article then answer the questions that follow.

“Why Include Storytelling in School?”

*An excerpt from **Teaching Storytelling: A Position Statement from the Committee on Storytelling of the National Council of Teachers of English** <http://www.ncte.org/about/over/positions/category/curr/107637.htm>*

Students who search their memories for details about an event as they are telling it orally will later find those details easier to capture in writing. Writing theorists value the rehearsal, or prewriting, stage of composing. Sitting in a circle and swapping personal or fictional tales is one of the best ways to help writers rehearse.

Listeners encounter both familiar and new language patterns through story. They learn new words or new contexts for already familiar words. Those who regularly hear stories, subconsciously acquire familiarity with narrative patterns and begin to predict upcoming events. Both beginning and experienced readers call on their understanding of patterns as they tackle unfamiliar texts. Then they re-create those patterns in both oral and written compositions. Learners who regularly tell stories become aware of how an audience affects a telling, and they carry that awareness into their writing.

Both tellers and listeners find a reflection of themselves in stories. Through the language of symbol, children and adults can act out through a story the fears and understandings not so easily expressed in everyday talk. Story characters represent the best and worst in humans. By exploring story territory orally, we explore ourselves—whether it be through ancient myths and folktales, literary short stories, modern picture books, or poems. Teachers who value a personal understanding of their students can learn much by noting what story a child chooses to tell and how that story is uniquely composed in the telling. Through this same process, teachers can learn a great deal about themselves.

Story is the best vehicle for passing on factual information. Historical figures and events linger in children's minds when communicated by way of a narrative. The ways of other cultures, both ancient and living, acquire honor in story. The facts about how plants and animals develop, how numbers work, or how government policy influences history—any topic, for that matter—can be incorporated into story form and made more memorable if the listener takes the story to heart. Children at any level of schooling who do not feel as competent as their peers in reading or writing are often masterful at storytelling. The comfort zone of the oral tale can be the path by which they reach the written one. Tellers who become very familiar with even one tale by retelling it often, learn that literature carries new meaning with each new encounter. Students working in pairs or in small storytelling groups learn to negotiate the meaning of a tale.

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What is the purpose of this article?

- a) persuade
- b) entertain
- c) inform
- d) instruct

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

Open Ended Question for “Why Include Storytelling in School?”

What is the theme of the selection? Use textual details for support.

Open Ended Question for Chapters 7-9 of *The Handmaid's Tale*

Explain why the narrator continues to tell a story she struggles with wanting to tell. Use textual details for support.

Chapter 10

What is the best synonym for “faith”?

- a) belief
- b) religion
- c) thoughts
- d) desires

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

Chapter 11

What is the best definition of “sterile” as it is used in chapter 11?

- a) clean
- b) bleached
- c) unfertile
- d) old

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Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

Chapter 12

The tattooing of the Handmaids can best be compared to

- a) body art.
- b) identifying markers.
- c) branding.
- d) None of the above

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

Read the following selection, and answer the questions that follow.

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)

We Wear the Mask

WE wear the mask that grins and lies,
It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,—
This debt we pay to human guile;
With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,
And mouth with myriad subtleties.
Why should the world be over-wise,
In counting all our tears and sighs?
Nay, let them only see us, while
 We wear the mask.
We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries
To thee from tortured souls arise.
We sing, but oh the clay is vile
Beneath our feet, and long the mile;
But let the world dream otherwise,
 We wear the mask!

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“We” most likely refers to

- a) all people.
- b) slaves.
- c) Native Americans.
- d) religious people.

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

Open Ended Question for “We Wear the Mask”

Explain how the author uses figurative language to reveal the tone(s) in the poem. Use textual details for support.

Open Ended Question for chapter 12 of The Handmaid’s Tale

Explain what the narrator means in the final paragraph of chapter 12. Use textual details for support.

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Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.

What is the best synonym for “treacherous” on page 73?

- a) dangerous
- b) traitor
- c) sad
- d) awful

Write your justification/textual detail(s) for selecting this answer.
