

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Offred **Sample Answers** *Evidence and Analysis*



Directions: Gather quotes and other examples from the text to use as evidence that provides insight into Offred. Then write a paragraph that describes and analyzes Offred, including relationships, traits, motivations, fears, and how (or if) they develop over the course of the text.

Evidence		
1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

Character Description and Analysis
<p>The novel's protagonist and first-person narrator, Handmaid of the Commander and Serena Joy, former wife of Luke, and lover of Nick. We never learn her real name (Offred means "Of Fred," her Commander), and we know little about her physical appearance. She has brown hair, stands about five foot seven, and is 33 years old. Before Gilead, she had a daughter with Luke at about age 25. Moira was her best friend from college, and she had a rocky relationship with her radical, outrageous mother. Though Offred is rebellious, even violent, in her thoughts, and full of passionate memories, she seems stolid and devout to outsiders, doing her best to obey Gilead's laws. Readers may be quick to judge Offred for her passivity, but her keen observations and honest emotions, even after the terror and brainwashing that she's encountered, demonstrate the limitations of Gilead's power over its subjects.</p>

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

The Commander **Sample Answers** *Evidence and Analysis*



Directions: Gather quotes and other examples from the text to use as evidence that provides insight into The Commander. Then write a paragraph that describes and analyzes The Commander, including relationships, traits, motivations, fears, and how (or if) they develop over the course of the text.

Evidence		
1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

Character Description and Analysis
<p>The head of the household where Offred serves as a Handmaid, and husband of Serena Joy. The Commander has gray hair, wears a black suit, and looks “like a Midwestern bank president.” Though he is a high-ranking official of Gilead who may have played a large role in its construction, he breaks many laws, including going to the sex club Jezebel’s (and at least once hiring Moira), and spending time with Offred. Though he attributes many of his misogynistic attitudes to “Nature,” he cares for Offred’s well being, and often wants to know her opinion on controversial matters.</p>

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Serena Joy **Sample Answers** *Evidence and Analysis*



Directions: Gather quotes and other examples from the text to use as evidence that provides insight into Serena Joy. Then write a paragraph that describes and analyzes Serena Joy, including relationships, traits, motivations, fears, and how (or if) they develop over the course of the text.

Evidence		
1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

Character Description and Analysis
<p>Also known as the Commander's Wife, she is unable to have children and therefore requires Offred's services. Before Gilead, she was a singer who became famous on TV for her emotional Christian music. She also used to give speeches about how women ought to be housewives. During the novel, she occupies her time gardening with Nick's help, and knitting elaborate scarves for soldiers, despite her arthritis. For much of the novel, she resentfully ignores Offred, but towards the end she encourages Offred to try to get pregnant by having sex with Nick.</p>

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Nick **Sample Answers** *Evidence and Analysis*



Directions: Gather quotes and other examples from the text to use as evidence that provides insight into Nick. Then write a paragraph that describes and analyzes Nick, including relationships, traits, motivations, fears, and how (or if) they develop over the course of the text.

Evidence		
1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

Character Description and Analysis
<p>The Commander's driver and Serena Joy's helper in the garden, and Offred's lover. Nick's official position is Guardian, and he seems to be low-ranking because he hasn't been assigned a woman. From the beginning, he roguishly rejects some of Gilead's strictures (by rolling up his uniform sleeves, for example), but the Commander and Serena Joy find him trustworthy and get his help for their own misdeeds. He is secretive and discreet, and Offred can never quite figure out what he's thinking, even during their love affair. The question of his true alliances comes to a head at the book's cliffhanger ending, but the postscript "Notes" suggest that he was working for the Resistance after all.</p>

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Luke **Sample Answers** *Evidence and Analysis*



Directions: Gather quotes and other examples from the text to use as evidence that provides insight into Luke. Then write a paragraph that describes and analyzes Luke, including relationships, traits, motivations, fears, and how (or if) they develop over the course of the text.

Evidence		
1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

Character Description and Analysis
<p>Offred's pre-Gilead husband and father of her daughter. He was previously married and had a long affair with Offred before divorcing his first wife. Though Offred passes a lot of time remembering him, he seems to have been frequently at odds with her emotions. He doesn't seem greatly distressed when Offred loses her job and must cede all her money to him. Perhaps he lacks sympathy, or perhaps he's sexist. After their failed escape, Offred imagines many fates for him, but never pictures him joining with Gilead, although subtext suggests that he might have.</p>

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Moira **Sample Answers** *Evidence and Analysis*



Directions: Gather quotes and other examples from the text to use as evidence that provides insight into Moira. Then write a paragraph that describes and analyzes Moira, including relationships, traits, motivations, fears, and how (or if) they develop over the course of the text.

Evidence		
1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

Character Description and Analysis
<p>Offred's best friend in college, a brave, opinionated feminist lesbian whom Offred encounters again at the Rachel and Leah Center. After one failed attempt, she manages to escape the Center and move along the Underground Femaleroad, but the Eyes capture and torture her. She decides to work as a prostitute rather than go to the Colonies (the Colonies are essentially a death sentence). When Offred sees her at Jezebel's, it seems that the authorities have managed to break Moira's spirit.</p>