

Meden School Curriculum Planning							
Subject	English	Year Group	1	Sequence No.	4	Topic	The Handmaid's Tale

Retrieval	Core Knowledge	Student Thinking
What do teachers need retrieve from students before they start teaching new content ?	What specific ambitious knowledge do teachers need teach students in this sequence of learning?	What real life examples can be applied to this sequence of learning to development of our students thinking, encouraging them to see the inequalities around them and 'do something about them!'
From KS4/ KS5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masculine stereotypes (Link to Stanley in Streetcar/ Curley in OMAM) • Toxic Masculinity • Feminine stereotypes (Lady Macbeth/E milia and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wars and the legacy of wars • The impact and legacy of the cold war/ tensions between the West and the Soviet Union. • Look at some of the biggest changes and events that have shaped our society since the Second World War. Possible ideas include: the development of the atomic bomb, nuclear weapons and chemical weapons • Puritan New England & Utopian Ideals in a Dystopia • personal and social identity • changing sexual norms: the legalisation of homosexuality, civil partnerships and gay marriage, decline in popularity of marriage, increased rates of divorce • women's rights: • second and third-wave feminism, the fight for equal pay, the development of the Pill, the legalisation of abortion, female representation in Parliament and business 	Masculinity and femininity in contemporary society – How have the 'stereotypical' roles of males and females changed since the writing of this text? How do they compare the gender roles in Gilead? Social conformity and hierarchies How do people in modern society show conformity or rebellion? E.g. Just Stop Oil/ current strikes Power and abuse in relationships

<p>Desdemona)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact and influences of war (AIC/ power and conflict poetry) • Biblical allusions (AIC/Macbeth) • Gender (Sheila and Gerald AIC) • • Morality (AIC and Macbeth) • • Gender identity/ the female body/ male gaze as explored in Feminine Gospels • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changing morality and social structures; • changing social structures: loss of the old 'working class' owing to decline in manufacturing industries, meritocracy and social mobility • gender, class, race and ethnicity; • Canadian science fiction – danger of nuclear accidents/ ecological disasters • political upheaval and change; • capitalism and globalisation. • engagement with the social, political, personal and literary issues which have helped to shape the latter half of the 20th century and the early decades of the 21st century. • <p><u>Week 1 – context</u></p> <p>Margaret Atwood – living in Germany at time of writing; Atwood’s own ancestry lies in Puritanism: her relative, Mary Webster, was hanged as a witch in 1683. The 1980s American movement; Gilead’s ideas on religion are reminders of the fundamentalist views of the American New Right movement. Serena Joy modelled on Phyllis Schlafly, an extreme right activist who travelled America urging support for her conservative views on women. Atwood uses the dystopian genre to satirise the extreme views of American 1980s conservatism/ explain the concept of dsytopia</p> <p>https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/English-Literature/A-level/Notes/AQA/The-Handmaid's-Tale/Context.pdf</p> <p><u>Week 2 – Context</u></p> <p>Focus on Feminism</p> <p>Offred’s mother - supporter of the Women’s Liberation Movement, which campaigned for women’s sexual freedom in America in the late 1960s.</p>	<p>How does modern society view power within relationships? Discuss forced marriage/ ‘sham’ marriage</p> <p>Power and abuse in society Police brutality/ George Floyd Corruption within governments Coercive and sexualised behaviour</p> <p>Political corruption – How is life in Gilead different/ similar to modern society?</p> <p>Power of religion/ religion as a method of control How is scientology viewed as a ‘cult’? What influence does it have over its members?</p> <p>The female body Roe v Wade/ banned abortions/ abortion legislation in America</p>
--	--	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love and relationships - separation/loss in pre-1900 poetry • • Death and remembrance in 'Feminine Gospels' • • Sibling relationships (sisters in Atonement) • • Class relationships (love between Robbie and Cecilia in Atonement) • • Morality-AIC and Macbeth • 	<p>Early feminists burnt pornographic books and organised pro-abortion rallies; both of these are echoed in the remembered story of Offred's mother.</p> <p>A significant feature of the movement was the fight to legalise abortion. In Gilead, doctors who previously engaged in this practice are hunted down and hanged.</p> <p>Feminist critique of a patriarchal society – women as sexual and domestic commodities</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/books/ng-interactive/2022/feb/19/margaret-atwood-on-feminism-culture-wars#:~:text=%E2%80%9CMy%20fundamental%20position%20is%20that,of%20a%20classic%20Atwood%20controversy.</p> <p>Other women's voices also offer a range of views from this time, such as those of Aunt Lydia and the Commander's wife.</p> <p>https://webofproceedings.org/proceedings_series/ART2L/AISALLC%202019/AISALC19061.pdf</p> <p><u>Week 3 – power</u></p> <p>The Aunts – paramilitary organisation/ propogandists of the regime/ Rachel and Leah centre</p> <p>The Commander – the dichotomy of power in public and private</p> <p>The failed utopia covered in the 'The Historical Notes'</p> <p>The totalitarian regime</p> <p>Explore power – over/to/with/ within</p> <p>Withholding information as a form of power</p> <p>Explore the power structure in Gilead – centralised government/ hierarchy</p> <p>https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/English-Literature/A-level/Notes/AQA/The-Handmaid's-Tale/Themes/Power.pdf</p>	
---	---	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political change-power and conflict poetry/ AIC/ Macbeth • From KS3 • Abuse of power (OMAM) • Oppression (OMAM) • Social hierarchy • Patriarchy (R and J/ AMSND) • Symbolism • The American Dream • Marriage – (AMSND) • Link to dystopia within Animal Farm 	<p><u>Week 4 – oppression and rebellion</u></p> <p>Women being oppressed in every possible way - rape and the ceremonial confiscation of their reproductive rights; banned from reading and writing—a restriction that is not only dehumanizing, but that also deprives women of any chance to record their own history.</p> <p>Women’s knowledge of and use of the written language being a social justice weapon</p> <p>Focus on main characters’ rebellions and what their motive is for it (many differing factors)</p> <p>Moira as a symbol of resistance/ empowerment</p> <p>Discussion around Offred – is she rebellious or neutral?/ Offred’s resistance narrative</p> <p>The commander’s rebellion – secret meetings/ visit to Jezebel’s</p> <p>The wall as a symbol of Gileadean oppression</p> <p>https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1127026.pdf</p> <p>https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/English-Literature/A-level/Notes/AQA/The-Handmaid's-Tale/Themes/Rebellion.pdf</p> <p>Assessment Task: Examine the significance of Moira in the novel</p> <p><u>Week 5 – Religion/ faith/ theocracy</u></p> <p>Explore how religion is used as a means of control/ seeking to control people’s minds</p> <p>Impact of the totalitarian patriarchal theocracy.</p> <p>How Christian Values are distorted to oppress women.</p> <p>Biblical allusions/ biblical precedent – surrogacy/ sexual practices in Gilead/ Corinthians reference about Gilead dress codes</p>	
---	---	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totalitarian rule/ tyranny in AF 	<p>Serena Joy – own experiences of the ‘ceremony’/ experiences of polygamy Biblical references being part of Gileadean discourse</p> <p>https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/English-Literature/A-level/Notes/AQA/The-Handmaid's-Tale/Themes/Religion.pdf</p>	
<p><u>Key Vocabulary</u></p> <p>Analogy Allusion Bildungsroman Counter-discourse Denouement Didactic Discourse Dissident Double or doppelgänger Dystopia Écriture féminine Elegy Epigraph Euphemism Fictive autobiography Flashback Genre Ideology Institutionalised Irony Metaphor Motif</p>	<p><u>Week 6 – The female body/ Fertility and reproduction</u></p> <p>Draw on/ develop ideas surrounding surrogacy from previous week. Birthing scene/ Birth Day – treatment of OfWarren (Janine)/ Unbaby Fertility being a source of captivation AND power Sent to the colonies when no longer fertile/ unwomen Synecdoche of the ‘two-legged womb’ – dehumanisation because of the value of their wombs/ fertility</p> <p>https://www.prindleinstitute.org/2017/05/handmaids-tale-commodifying-reproduction/</p> <p><u>Week 7 – Survival</u></p> <p>The relationship with Nick as a survival story Offred’s determination to survive – physical and emotional level Storytelling and memory as strategies for survival</p> <p>https://www.yorknotes.com/alevel/english-literature/the-handmaids-tale-2017/study/characters-themes/02010000_themes</p> <p>https://www.yorknotes.com/alevel/english-literature/the-handmaids-tale-2017/study/characters-themes/02010001_themes</p> <p><u>Week 8 – Love</u></p>	

<p>Narrative Neologism Oppression Oxymoron Palimpsest Paradox Parody Patriarchy Patronymic Personification Postmodern Propaganda Protagonist Pun Puritan Repressive Satire Self-conscious narrator Symbol Theocracy Tyranny</p>	<p>Survival through love (link to last week's lessons) – Offred's relationship with Nick – a source of power and identity Love as a source of strength – Luke, mother, daughter Love as a source of escape The power of Gilead to replace romantic love with sexual reproduction Patriarchal view on love – Pre- Gilead/ Commander's views on love when visiting Jezebel's</p> <p>https://www.yorknotes.com/alevel/english-literature/the-handmaids-tale-2017/study/characters-themes/02010002_themes</p> <p><u>Week 9 – Gender roles</u> The shift in power/ gender roles with Luke – pre-Gilead (explore each character's attitudes towards Serena Joy) The Commander – symbol of the masculine ideal The commander - echoes of Bluebeard's chamber Males presented as an embodiment of their functions/ duties Women's roles reduced to strict gender roles – Handmaid/ Econowife, Marthas, etc</p> <p>https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/English-Literature/A-level/Notes/AQA/The-Handmaid's-Tale/Themes/Gender.pdf</p> <p>Assessment task: 'The Commander should be pitied. He is a victim of the Gileadean system too.' Examine this view of Atwood's presentation of the Commander.</p> <p><u>Week 10 – Imprisonment/ Captivity/ loss of freedom and identity</u> Rachel and Leah Centre – role of the aunts in imprisoning the women</p>	
---	--	--

	<p>Gileadean systematic stripping of identity from women – removal of names and limited to gender roles Inner identity explored through OfGlen’s inner identity in personal memory “The night is mine” Uniforms – colour-coded to indicate status/ role – white wings/ red clothing of the Handmaids – the physical representation of their social group Sense of identity is only found in reproduction</p> <p>https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/English-Literature/A-level/Notes/AQA/The-Handmaid's-Tale/Themes/Identity.pdf</p> <p><u>Week 11 – Traditional Values/ the home</u> Serena Joy – previous views on women’s roles – rightful place in the home/ trapped in her own ideology Commander creating some kind of ‘normality’/ domesticity in his study – Scrabble/ conversation/ books/ magazines The home – Offred refusing to accept the room as ‘hers’ as this would erase her identity Wives – symbol of domesticity and marriage Marthas as a symbol of housekeeping/ cleanliness Econowives performing traditionally feminine roles – child-rearing/ housekeeping Distinction between house and home – irony of Jezebel’s having the closest relationship to ‘home’</p> <p>Assessment: ‘It is impossible to feel any sympathy for Serena Joy.’ Examine Atwood’s presentation of Serena Joy in the light of this view.</p>	
--	---	--