

Language in *The Handmaid's Tale* Teacher Notes

These notes are meant as a guide to accompany the student handout. They are not exhaustive, and you should feel free to add examples as well as select from the examples that are highlighted here. All page numbers refer to the 1998 Anchor Book edition of *The Handmaid's Tale*.

NL—neologism
BL—Biblical language
LM—Offred's language musings

Chapter 2

- p. 8 "reduced circumstances" LM
- p. 8 "in love with either/or" LM
- p. 8 "refuse to say my..." LM
- p. 9 "sitting room" LM
- p.10 "Unwomen" NL
- p. 11 "Fraternize...Sororize" LM

Chapter 4

- p. 17 "Guardians" NL
- p. 18 "Some of you will fall on dry ground or thorns..." BL
- p. 19 "Blessed be the fruit..." BL
- p. 19 "Praise Be" BL
- p. 21 "Salvagings...Pravaganzas...Birthmobile" NL

Chapter 8

- p. 44 "Mayday...*m'aidez*" LM
- p. 44 "Econowife" NL
- p. 44 "Unbaby" NL
- p. 45 "Under His Eye" BL
- p. 45 "Serena Joy" LM
- p. 45 "Forgive them for they know not what to do" BL
- p. 46 "Milk and Honey" BL
- p. 49 "I called it *mine*." LM

Chapter 12

- p. 62 "Saint Paul..." BL
- p. 63 "Aunt Lydia would never have used an expression like *crotch rot*." LM
- p. 64 "Blessed are the meek" BL
- p. 65 "You must be a worth vessel" BL
- p. 66 "I compose myself..." LM

Chapter 15

- p. 87 "We can be read to from it, by him, but we cannot read." LM
- p. 88 "*Be fruitful, and multiply...*" BL
- p. 89 "*Blessed be the poor...Blessed are the silent*" BL
- p. 90 "*Nolite te bastardes carborundorum*" LM
- p. 92 "For the eyes of the Lord..." BL