*The Handmaid’s Tale*—Discussion Activity Chapters 1-18

**Directions:**

1. Students work in pairs
2. Each pair is assigned two chapters of the novel
3. Each pair will discuss the chapters in their entirety and then choose one passage from each that they feel is most important/ significant/ pivotal to the story so far.
4. Each pair will then prepare a brief discussion of the passages to present to the class.
* The discussion should show your knowledge and understanding of the passage as well as allowing and encouraging opportunity for comments by classmates. Discussion, not lecture.
* Avoid mere plot summary
1. Items to include—
* Chapter numbers, page numbers, and specific passages so that the class can refer to each passage as you discuss it.
* A brief context of place/time of the passage in the story
* Literary significance of the passages
* What devices are evident in the passages?
* What is the purpose of the use of the devices in each passage? Effects on the reader?
* Relevance of the passage to the larger meaning of the story/message (some of which may be speculation at this point)
1. Pairs will submit written evidence of the preparation for their discussion.
2. Discussion length for each pair should be 5 minutes.

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* Chapters 1-2
* Chapters 3-4
* Chapters 5-6
* Chapters 7-8
* Chapters 9-10
* Chapters 11-12
* Chapters 13-14
* Chapters 15-16
* Chapters 17-18

Note: If everyone is here, there will be 11 pairs, and I only have nine chapter divisions. However, I figure that at least a couple of people will be out. If not, we’ll double up!