Investigating Section 11: Night - Chapter thirty

- Compare the Lord’s Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Offred’s own version.
  - Why do you think Atwood chose to include this re-worked version of a well-known prayer?

Investigating Section 12: Jezebel’s - Chapter thirty-one

- Offred says at one point of herself and Serena Joy that ‘There’s not much common ground’, but also ‘For the moment at least we are cronies.’
  - Consider in what ways throughout the novel there are similarities between the situations of Serena Joy and Offred.

Investigating Section 12: Jezebel’s - Chapter thirty-two

- ‘Occasionally I try to put myself in his position.’ As the author, Atwood chooses the perspective for her narrative, and has chosen to give events from Offred’s perspective.
  - Try re-writing the scene between Offred and the Commander outlined in this chapter from the Commander’s point of view, describing his thoughts and feelings.

Investigating Section 12: Jezebel’s - Chapter thirty-three

- The main theme of John Wyndham’s 1955 novel The Chrysalids is that chemical and other disasters led to the birth of malformed babies, and that this is seen as a punishment from God. As in The Handmaid’s Tale, he describes an imaginary American society with fundamentalist Christian views in which individuals who do not conform to the idea of genetic perfection are killed or banished to ‘the Fringes’.
  - Read Wyndham’s novel to look at how another science fiction writer treats one of Atwood’s central themes, or use the internet to read a synopsis of The Chrysalids.

Investigating Section 12: Jezebel’s - Chapter thirty-four

- ‘There’s nothing in the book that hasn’t already happened’. Use the internet to:
  - Investigate the mass weddings of the ‘Moonies’
  - View online pictures of these events which Atwood’s ‘prayvaganza’ seems to recreate.

Investigating Section 12: Jezebel’s - Chapter thirty-five

- From a poetry anthology or using the internet, read Atwood’s poem This is a photograph of me
  - Relate its ideas to Offred’s comments about her sense of being ‘obliterated’.

Investigating Section 12: Jezebel’s - Chapter thirty-six

- In this chapter Atwood describes the imagined shaming of men who sold titillating clothing for women. She says they were made to wear ‘conical paper hats like dunce hats’. For different reasons, public shaming has taken place in various regimes
Investigate the public shaming of those seen as defaulters, such as those whom the Red Guards wished to humiliate under the Cultural Revelation in China.

Look at the novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, which describes the public humiliation of an adulteress in Puritan America in the seventeenth century, who is made to wear a scarlet letter ‘A’ on her dress.

### Investigating Section 12: Jezebel’s - Chapter thirty-seven

- Re-read the paragraph in which Atwood describes the women’s costumes (beginning: ‘The women are sitting..’)

  - Look carefully at Atwood’s choice of vocabulary. How does she make
    - These superficially ‘festive’ costumes sound so tawdry?
    - The supposedly attractive women wearing them seem so unappealing?

### Investigating Section 12: Jezebel’s - Chapter thirty-eight

- Use the Internet to find out more about the Underground Railroad, which helped escaped slaves in nineteenth-century America

- Or read *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, a nineteenth-century American novel which shocked its readers with a depiction of the lives of slaves and their attempts to escape.

- ‘Everything is the very same as it was, once upon a time.’

- In how many ways is this encounter in a hotel room the ‘very same’ as Offred’s surreptitious meetings with Luke?

- In what ways is it entirely different?