Investigating Section 3: Night - Chapter seven
- Use the web to look up further information about the growth of the feminist movement in America in the 1970-80s.

Investigating Section 4: Waiting room - Chapter eight
- How many instances can you find in this chapter in which Offred compares and contrasts her past life and her present existence?
  - What is the effect of these constant comparisons?

Investigating Section 4: Waiting room - Chapter nine
- In this chapter we learn another crucial fact about Luke. Look back over the previous chapters and start to make a table recording:
  - Any information Atwood lets Offred reveal about Luke
  - The chapter when Atwood reveals it.
- In the light of what you discover, start to think about Atwood’s methods of structuring her narrative and her use of suspense.

Investigating Section 4: Waiting room - Chapter ten
- From the New Testament, read chapter 13 of Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 13:1-13), where he describes the nature of selfless love (‘charity’ in older versions of the Bible)
  - Paul indicates all the ways in which, in his opinion, real love should be selfless. Do you think that Atwood uses his vision as her ideal?

Investigating Section 4: Waiting room - Chapter eleven
- If this chapter were a self-contained short story, what, in your opinion, would be the most significant points to emerge?
- What other books, films or plays do you know which also discuss moral choices and dilemmas?

Investigating Section 4: Waiting room - Chapter twelve
- Use the internet to look up the incidents at the end of World War II which Atwood may have been referring to, in which women had their heads shaved as punishment for fraternisation.
- Or look up Seamus Heaney’s poem *Punishment* which refers to the head-shaving and execution of a girl two thousand years ago in Germany and compares this to the head-shaving and tarring of girls in late twentieth century Northern Ireland who were thought to have fraternized with British troops.