

Shared Inquiry, *The Handmaid's Tale*, Pages 43-99

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Question 1

Offred describes Serena Joy, “She has become speechless. She stays in her home, but it doesn’t seem to agree with her. How furious she must be, now that she’s been taken at her word” (46).

Based on Offred’s narrative, how much power does Serena Joy have?

Question 2

Offred describes her room, “I’m waiting, in my room, which right now is a waiting room. When I go to bed it’s a bedroom...I am trying not to tell stories, or at any rate not this one” (50).

What does she mean by this? What story is she referring to?

Question 3

What do you think is the significance of the “hard little cushion with a petit point cover: FAITH, in square print...the only thing they’ve given (her) to read” (57)? Why is this pillow important?

Question 4

Is Aunt Lydia a good guy or a bad guy? How do you know?

Based on your reading and analysis, devise at least two interpretive or evaluative questions that you would like to raise in Friday’s discussion:

1.

2.