

Getting to know each other

Name

Family

Hobbies

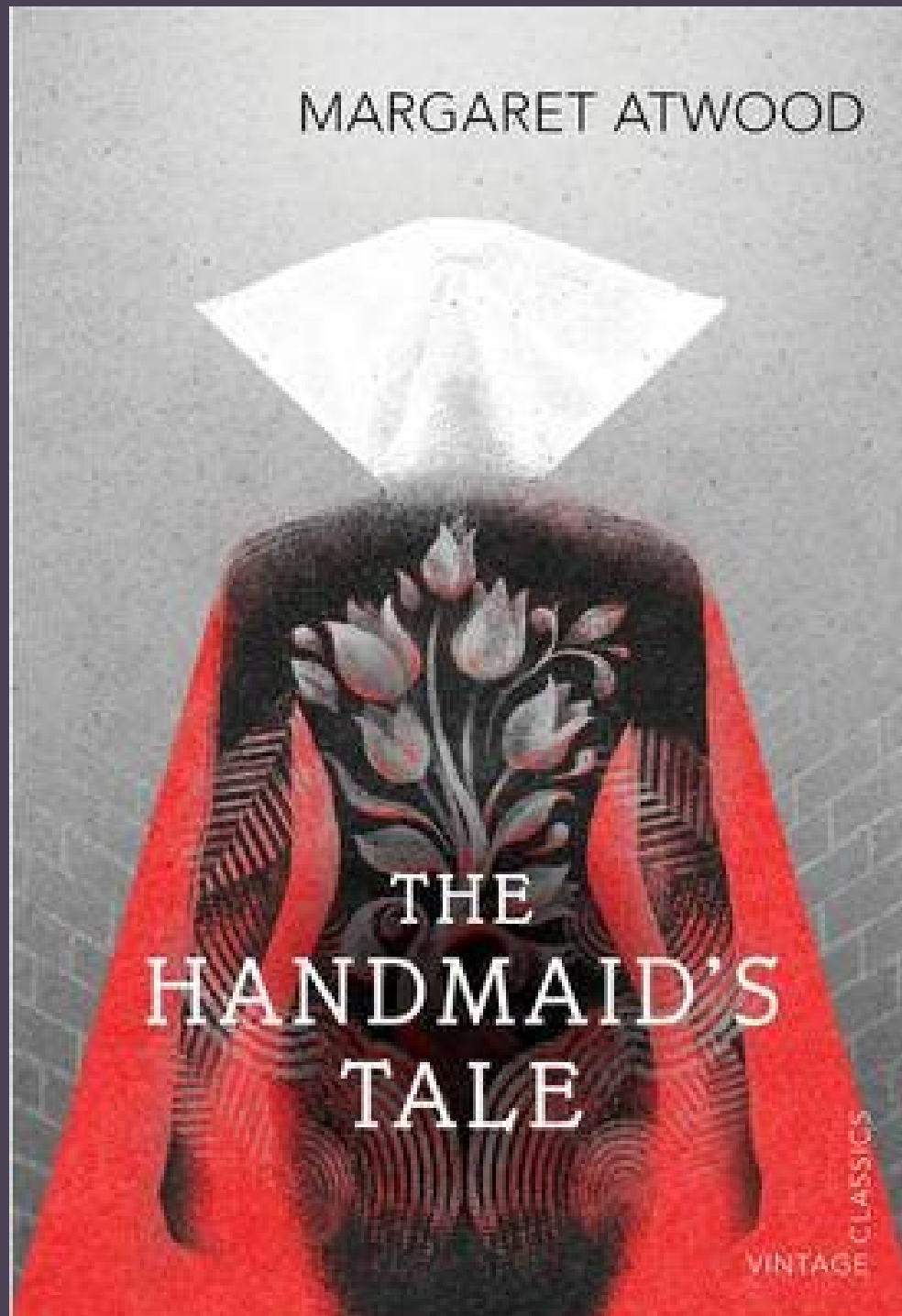
Favourite school
subject

Films

Job
aspirations

Pets

The Handmaid's Tale



Margaret Atwood :

- Canadian author in her 80s
- Harvard Graduate

Margaret Atwood was born in Ottawa, Ontario, in 1939. She is Canada's most eminent (famous and respected) novelist and poet, and also writes short stories, critical studies, screenplays, radio scripts and books for children; her works have been translated into over 30 languages.

The Handmaid's Tale :

- Dystopian novel
- 1985
- Offred/June

WHAT IS DYSTOPIA ?

IT IS NOT A FAIRY TALE !

UTOPIA



DYSTOPIA



Utopia is a fictional society that possesses highly desirable qualities, presenting itself as an idealistic paradise. This ideal society has highly desirable laws, conditions and politics so that citizens feel they are being treated fairly and equally. Its citizens are happy and poverty and misery are virtually non-existent.

Dystopia is an imagined society that creates the illusion of a utopia but is in fact, the opposite. It's a place full of misery, corruption, injustice and poverty. This society is often post-apocalyptic, with a totalitarian leader who exercises oppressive societal control.

WHAT IS DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE?

Dystopian literature is a type of speculative fiction that offers a vision of a potential future whereby the author takes an issue (real facts) from current society and exacerbates the problem. They tend to offer an exaggeration of our fears or anxieties, positioning us to feel intrigued by the possibility that the world as we know it could end up in the same way.

Dystopian novels may be written to:

- help the reader recognise negative aspects in their own world
- serve as a warning against certain political ideologies
- position readers to think differently about their society
- inspire social action and prevent the horrors they illustrate



THE REPUBLIC OF GILEAD

The totalitarian regime in *The Handmaid's Tale*

Who ?

Where ?

How ?

Characters ?





The Handmaid's Tale | June and Luke Find Out About the Attacks to The Capitol and The White House.




Share

THE HANDMAID'S TALE

JUNE FINDS OUT
ABOUT THE
ATTACKS ON
THE CAPITOL
AND
THE WHITE HOUSE



Watch on  YouTube

ELISABETH MOSS CLIPS

Who ?

The government

After a staged coup d'Etat and the slaughter (attack) of Congress, the religious leaders blamed terrorists and suspended the Constitution.

The model for the Republic of Gilead was the Puritans: Religious people with radical views in the 16th century.



THE REPUBLIC OF GILEAD

Religious Control

Society is controlled by a religious ideology enforced by the government. This is used as justification for the government's oppressive actions towards its citizens.

Where ?

How ?

Characters ?






Why should you read "The Handmaid's Tale"? - Naomi R. Mercer



WHY
SHOULD
YOU READ

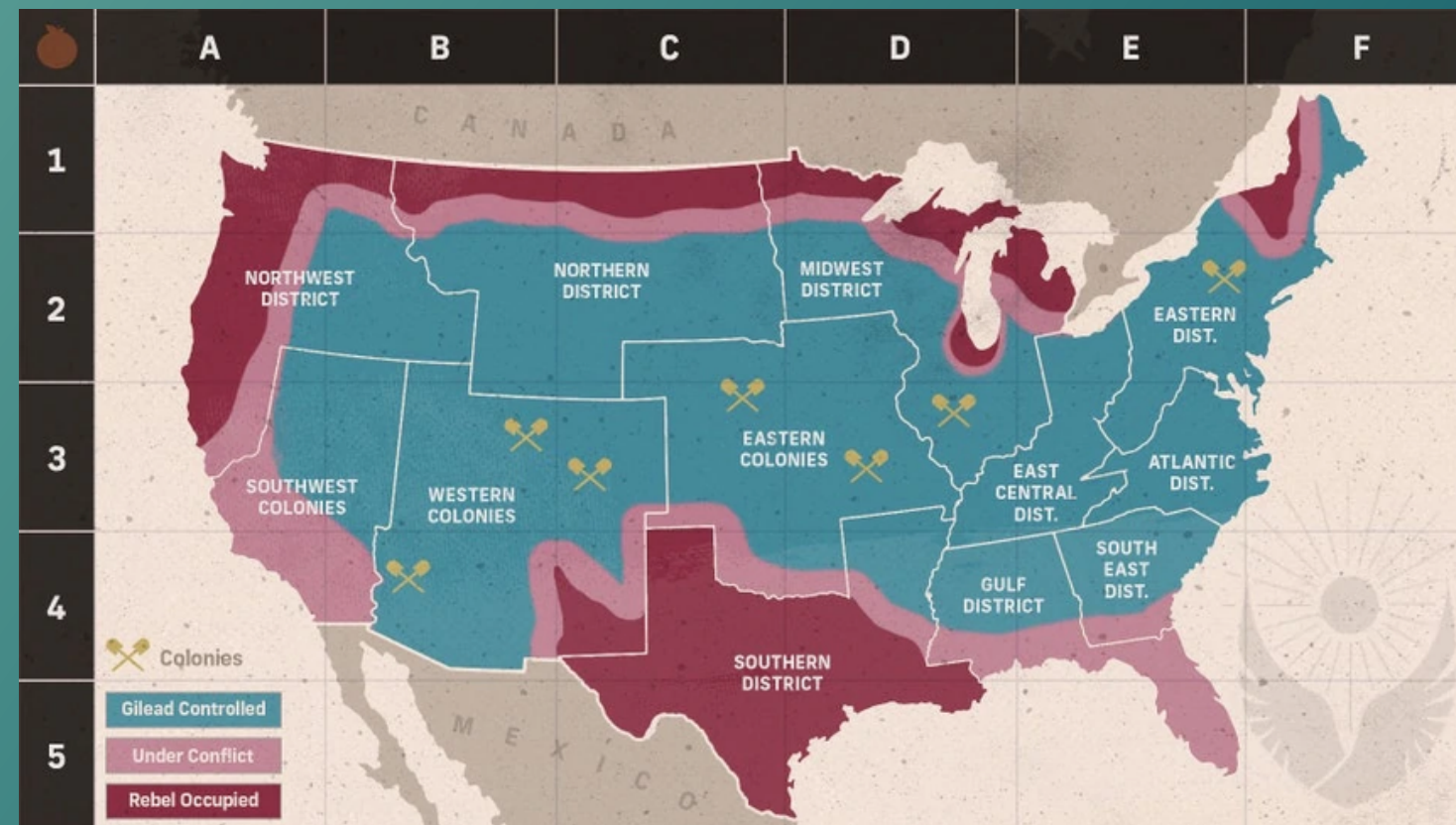


THE HANDMAID'S TALE?

Watch on  YouTube

Where ?

Cambridge, Massachusetts





THE REPUBLIC OF GILEAD

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Where ?

Cambridge,
Massachusetts

How ?

Characters ?



How ?

1:50-2:12

Restricting freedom and dividing women into categories

"Gilead _____ women in the regime into distinct _____ classes based upon their _____ as status symbols for men. Even their _____ is color-_____. Women are no longer _____ to read or move about _____ in public, and fertile women are _____ to state-engineered rape in order to _____ to children for the regime."



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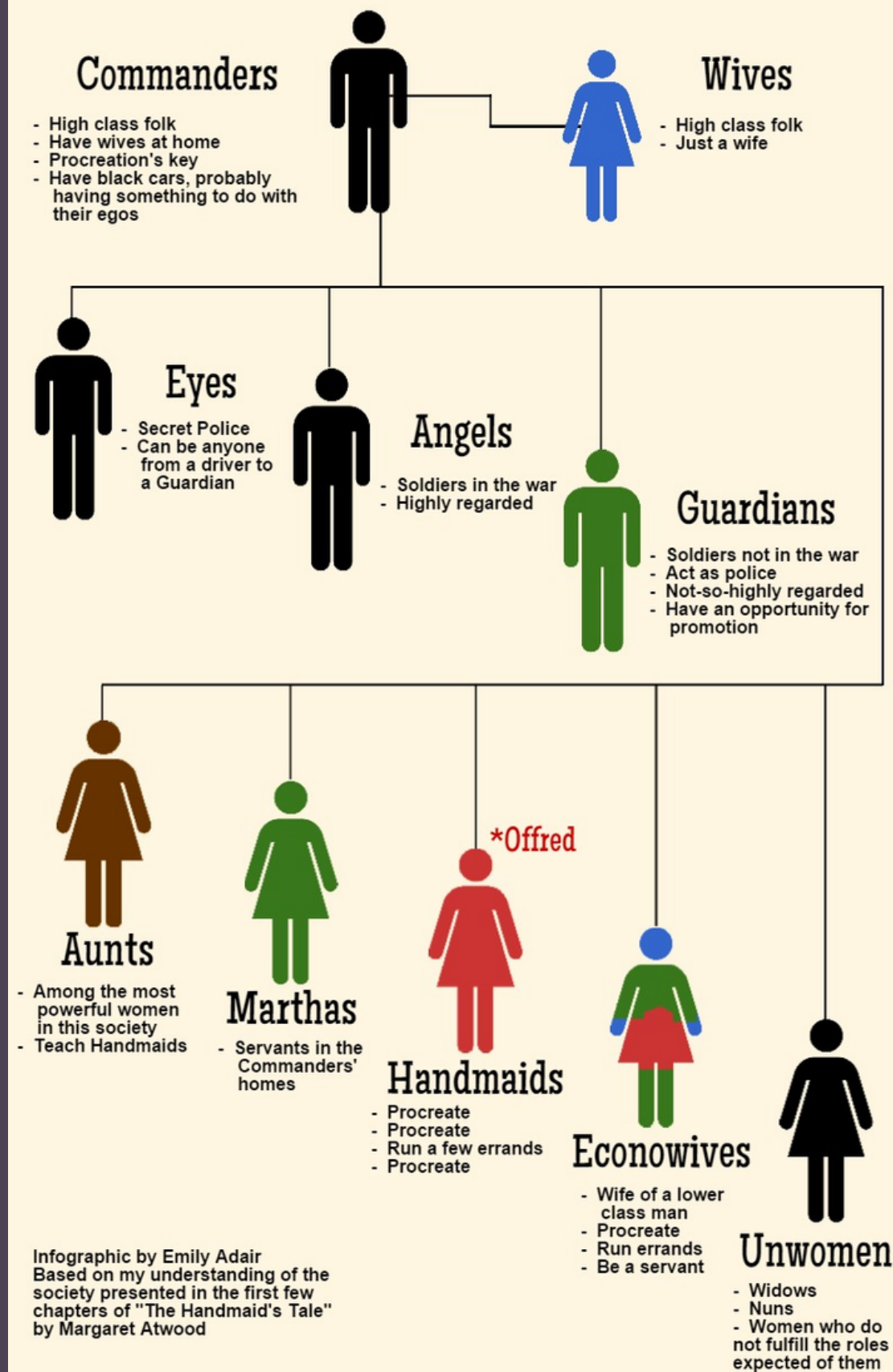
How ?

Restricting
freedom and
dividing women
into categories

Characters ?



The Handmaid's Tale



Which categories correspond to/tie in with the previous video ?

From the book cover, deduce which category the main character belongs to.



Characters ?

There are dominant characters

Characters that have power and a high ranking position are commanders, the eyes, angels and aunts.

There are powerless characters

These characters are considered inferior and not highly regarded : handmaids, econowives and unwomen.

The in-between characters

They have power over some characters but are submitted to other : wives, marthas, guardians.



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Where ?


Cambridge,
Massachusetts

How ?

Restricting
freedom and
dividing women
into categories.

Characters ?

Commanders, eyes,
angels, guardians,
wives, aunts,
marthas, handmaids,
econowives,
unwomen.



LET'S TEST YOUR MEMORY !