Why do you think the Handmaid calls Gilead a “women’s culture” after the birth?

What do you think the Handmaid means by, “there will always be alliances, of one kind or another”?

Do you think the Handmaid made the right decision by going to see the Commander? Why or why not?

What do you think the Handmaid is looking for when she visits the Commander?

When the Commander asks the Handmaid to kiss him, she imagines when she tells the story that she thinks of using the trick that Moira used. What do you think it means that she thinks of it only afterwards?

What do you think Moira represents to the Handmaid when she is in frightening situations?

The Handmaid recalls a documentary about the Holocaust, including an interview with the mistress of one of the Nazis running the camp. Do you think she believes the Commander is like the Nazi? Why or why not?

What do you think happens to old women in Gilead?

If you could save one “trivial” thing from your life before being transported to live in Gilead, what would it be? Why would you choose it?

The Commander is obviously tied into the black market. What do you think this reveals about him?