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Close Reading Organizer - Section 9

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

1	Privacy, Loneliness, and Communication
2	Social Criticism
3	Time
4	Psychology and Perception
5	Death

Summary	Theme Tracker					Your Analysis
<p>Lucy and the other Dalloway servants hurry about, making last-minute preparations for the party. They hear that the Prime Minister will be there, but the cook says that this makes no difference for her work. The guests start arriving and the ladies go upstairs while the men order Imperial Tokay (a sweet wine) from the kitchen. Elizabeth worries about her dog and reminds a servant to check on it.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>Guests keep arriving and the men finally go upstairs to join the women. There are servants specially hired for the party, including an old woman who has been helping the family for forty years. Clarissa greets everyone with "How delightful to see you!" Peter Walsh arrives and finds her "at her worst - effusive, insincere." He wishes he had stayed home with a</p>	1	2	3	4	5	

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book.						
Clarissa sees Peter in the corner, criticizing her with his eyes, and she worries that the party will be a failure. She wonders why she invites such failure and criticism on herself, but then resolves that she would rather burn up while throwing a party than fade away like her cousin, Ellie Henderson . She gets angry at Peter for criticizing everything but never offering something of his own.	1	2	3	4	5	
Ellie Henderson is there, admiring all the people at the party. She is poorer and less fashionable than everyone else there and gets nervous when someone talks to her, but she enjoys admiring all the interesting, influential guests. She takes mental notes to describe the event to someone named Edith later.	1	2	3	4	5	
The wind blows a curtain out and a guest beats it back and keeps talking. Clarissa takes this as a sign that the party has really begun and might be successful after all. Guests keep arriving, but Clarissa isn't enjoying herself yet. She feels that she has become an unreal figure, and anyone could take her place as hostess. Lady Bruton arrives, and then the butler announces an unfamiliar name - Lady Rosseter - who turns out to be Sally Seton .	1	2	3	4	5	
Sally hasn't seen Clarissa in years, but she happened to be in London and heard about the	1	2	3	4	5	

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party. Clarissa immediately sees that the “the lustre had gone out of” Sally, and she is now “older, happier, less lovely,” but she still greets her joyfully. With a touch of her old bravado, Sally boasts that she has “five enormous boys.”						
The Prime Minister arrives, interrupting Clarissa and Sally’s reunion. In his appearance he looks ordinary and almost laughable, but everyone still feels the silent presence of “this symbol of what they all stood for, English society.” He makes his rounds and then goes off with Lady Bruton . Peter watches this and criticizes the “snobbery of the English.”	1	2	3	4	5	
Peter then sees Hugh Whitbread and mocks him mercilessly in his thoughts, watching Hugh patronizing and flattering other guests. Then he sees Clarissa in her “silver-green mermaid’s dress” and feels that she still has her ability “to be; to exist; to sum it all up in the moment as she passed.” Peter reminds himself that he doesn’t love her anymore.	1	2	3	4	5	
Clarissa shows the Prime Minister out. She feels the intoxication and pleasure of the party now, but it all seems hollow to her. She remembers Miss Kilman and revels in the sincerity and strength of the hatred she inspires. Clarissa returns to the party and talks to more of her guests, including the failed painter Sir Harry .	1	2	3	4	5	

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Old Mrs. Hilbery tells Clarissa that she looks like her mother, and Clarissa is suddenly moved to tears. Two intellectuals are arguing about Milton, and Clarissa interrupts them to smooth things over. More younger guests arrive, and then Clarissa's old Aunt Helena , who is over eighty now. She talks about Burma and orchids , and Clarissa sends Peter to talk to her.	1	2	3	4	5	
Clarissa speaks briefly with Lady Bruton . Both women respect each other, but they have little to say. Lady Bruton then talks to Peter Walsh and Aunt Helena about India. The narrator describes Lady Bruton's love of the British Empire and how her Englishness is inseparable from her soul.	1	2	3	4	5	
Sally catches Clarissa by the arm, but Clarissa is still busy entertaining. She asks Peter and Sally to stay, meaning that they will talk after the other guests have left. Clarissa watches Sally and Peter reuniting and thinks about her old passion for Sally. When she was young Clarissa had felt that Sally would end up a martyr of some kind, but instead Sally had married a rich man and had five boys. Clarissa thinks that her past belongs to Peter and Sally more than to anyone else.	1	2	3	4	5	
The Bradshaws arrive and Clarissa is obligated to speak to them. She dislikes Sir William , though she can't pinpoint why. Sir William mentions a case of	1	2	3	4	5	

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<p>“shell shock,” and then Lady Bradshaw tells Clarissa about Septimus’s suicide. Clarissa is struck by the sudden arrival of death at her party, and angry at the Bradshaws for bringing it. She goes into a little room to be alone.</p>						
<p>Clarissa muses on Septimus’s death and thinks of it as an act of communication and defiance, a preservation of something that she has obscured in her own life with chatter and frivolity. Clarissa remembers the time at Bourton when she went down to meet Sally and thought “If it were now to die, ‘twere now to be most happy.” She imagines Septimus as having a passionate soul and then being coldly overpowered by Sir William.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>Clarissa thinks of Septimus’s death as somehow “her disaster – her disgrace.” She has chosen conventionality and life over “the terrace at Bourton,” where she felt romantic joy and a terrible premonition. Clarissa looks out her window and sees the old woman across the way staring straight at her. The woman goes to bed and Big Ben strikes three o’clock in the morning.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>Clarissa hears the noises of the party and knows she must go back out. She thinks again of the line from <i>Cymbeline</i>: “Fear no more the heat of the sun.” She suddenly identifies with Septimus and is glad that he killed himself, as it makes the beauty and joy of life all the</p>	1	2	3	4	5	

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more precious. She goes back to the party, looking for Peter and Sally .						
Meanwhile Peter and Sally are reminiscing about the past and wondering where Clarissa is. They discuss their current lives and realize how they have changed so much from their younger selves, and have failed the dreams of their past in a way. Sally talks about Clarissa, and admits that she was disappointed that Clarissa married Richard .	1	2	3	4	5	
Hugh walks by and Sally reaffirms her story that Hugh had once tried to kiss her in the smoking-room at Bourton. Sally wonders why Clarissa has never visited her in all these years, and she says that Clarissa is a bit of a snob. Soon afterward she feels a rush of affection for Clarissa though, and declares her pure of heart. She flaunts her sentimentality to Peter , saying that it is best to just say what one feels. Peter says he doesn't know what he feels.	1	2	3	4	5	
Peter tells Sally that his relationship with Clarissa had "spoilt his life," as he could not be in love like that twice. Sally says that she thinks Clarissa cared for Peter more than for Richard , but Peter stops her. They watch Elizabeth cross the room and think of how different she is from Clarissa. They can see the affection between Elizabeth and Richard, and Sally goes to say goodnight to Richard, admitting that he has	1	2	3	4	5	

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“improved.” Peter lingers,
suddenly filled with terror and
ecstasy, and then Clarissa
appears.