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Close Reading Organizer - Section 3

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
Clarissa returns home, and as she enters her house she feels like a nun who is returning to the familiar devotions of the convent. Clarissa does not believe in God, but she still feels thankful for precious moments (which are like “buds on the tree of life”) and feels the need to somehow repay them.	1	2	3	4	5	
Clarissa learns that Richard has been invited to lunch at Lady Bruton ’s house without her, and she is offended by this. Lucy , the servant, takes Clarissa’s parasol as if it were the weapon of a goddess. Clarissa thinks of “time itself” as it appears in Lady Bruton’s old age, and she immediately starts thinking of death again, quoting <i>Cymbeline</i> once more. She goes upstairs to her attic bedroom, still musing on mortality and her snubbing by Lady Bruton.	1	2	3	4	5	

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<p>Clarissa takes off her hat and feels a sudden “emptiness about the heart of life.” She and Richard have slept in separate rooms since Clarissa’s illness, but she is happy to be alone. She thinks vaguely of how she still has a kind of “virginity” and “cold spirit” about her, as she does not feel passion for Richard.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>Clarissa does sometimes feel attracted to women more than to men, and then she can experience more passion. She remembers her old friend Sally Seton, who spent a summer at Bourton, and Clarissa feels that she was truly in love with Sally.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>Clarissa describes Sally in detail – in their younger days Sally was dark-haired, wild, and poor. She smoked cigarettes, read socialist writers, and once ran naked through the country house when she was bathing and forgot her sponge. Sally gave Clarissa radical things to read and together they planned to change the world. Clarissa’s old Aunt Helena found Sally shocking and improper, even her habit of cutting the heads off of flowers and floating them in water.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>Clarissa remembers the “purity, the integrity” of her love for Sally, and she remembers being overcome at entering a house, thinking that Sally “is beneath this roof!” Clarissa also remembers going downstairs in a white dress to meet Sally and thinking of a line from</p>	1	2	3	4	5	

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Shakespeare's <i>Othello</i> - "if it were now to die 'twere now to be most happy." There were other people there that day too, Peter Walsh and her own father, but Clarissa had eyes only for Sally.						
One night Clarissa , Sally , Peter , and another friend were out walking. Clarissa and Sally fell behind, and "Sally stopped; picked a flower ; kissed her on the lips." Clarissa feels that this was the "most exquisite moment of her whole life," and was like a religious experience. Immediately afterward her rapture was interrupted by Peter Walsh asking if she was "stargazing," and she felt his jealousy and criticism.	1	2	3	4	5	
Clarissa now thinks more of Peter , and how she owes much of her intellectual life to conversations with him. She and Peter have often quarreled, as she always wants his good opinion and he has high, stubborn standards. Clarissa wonders what Peter will think of her when he returns from India.	1	2	3	4	5	
Clarissa looks at herself in the mirror. She thinks of herself as a person who brings people together, which is why she throws parties. She finds the green dress she will wear that night and starts to mend a tear in it. She is always sensitive to her servants' workloads, and so sometimes she does tasks like this herself.	1	2	3	4	5	
Lucy comes in, thinking how	1	2	3	4	5	

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wonderful Mrs. Dalloway is, and she offers to help Clarissa with the dress. Clarissa refuses but thanks her. She is thankful that her servants like her and allow her to be generous. Clarissa sits quietly sewing the dress, thinking of life as a series of never-ending waves.						
The front doorbell rings, breaking Clarissa's reverie. She is surprised to hear that it is Peter Walsh , who has just returned from India. They greet each other and Peter kisses Clarissa's hands, but then he is immediately embarrassed. He takes out his pocketknife and plays with the blade as he always used to do.	1	2	3	4	5	
The two make small talk and Peter feels irritated with Clarissa for her society lifestyle and for choosing to marry the Conservative Richard . He notes that she is mending a dress, which seems very indicative of her new role as a "perfect hostess." Clarissa talks about Bourton, trying to reminisce with Peter, but Peter doesn't want to revisit the painful past "when she had tortured him so infernally."	1	2	3	4	5	
Peter feels a judgment in Clarissa's wealth and happiness, as if he has been a failure, and he reassures himself that he is not old yet. Meanwhile Clarissa feels that Peter's habit of playing with his knife makes anything she says seem frivolous and silly. She asks Peter about his life, and he	1	2	3	4	5	

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gathers his strength and tells her that he is in love with a woman in India named Daisy .						
Clarissa is disappointed that Peter has succumbed to falling in love again, but she asks Peter about it. He says Daisy is a younger woman who is married to a Major in the Indian Army. She has two young children, but she wants to leave her husband for Peter. Peter has supposedly returned to England to ask his lawyers about getting a divorce for her. Clarissa pities him, as he has often wasted his life pursuing women.	1	2	3	4	5	
Peter is suddenly overcome by his memories and his perceived struggle against Clarissa , and he bursts into tears. Clarissa takes his hand and kisses him, and she briefly wonders if she should have married Peter instead of Richard . Peter masters himself and goes to the window. He wonders how Clarissa can still make him think of Bourton, and he asks her if she is happy with Richard. Before she can answer, Elizabeth enters the room and Big Ben strikes eleven-thirty. Peter leaves abruptly, and as he goes out Clarissa reminds him of her party that night.	1	2	3	4	5	