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Close Reading Organizer - Section 1

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
It is a June morning in London, and Clarissa Dalloway , an upper-class, fifty-two-year-old woman, is hosting a party that night. She offers to buy flowers for the party instead of sending her busy servant Lucy , and she goes out into the morning light. The sudden “plunge” into sunlight reminds Clarissa of opening the windows on her father’s country estate at Bourton (when she was eighteen). She would feel the freshness of the morning but also the feeling “that something awful was about to happen.”	1	2	3	4	5	
Clarissa has recently recovered from influenza. She goes out into the street and hears Big Ben tolling ten o’clock, and she thinks of the “leaden circles dissolved in the air.” It is a bustling Wednesday morning and Clarissa notes the setting: it is five years after the end of	1	2	3	4	5	

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World War I, the King and Queen are at the palace, and the streets are full of carriages and cars.						
Clarissa feels that she loves life and all the little moments and movements of the people in the street. This is why she is throwing a party, to “kindle and illuminate” that love in others. Clarissa runs into her old friend Hugh Whitbread . Hugh is a proper, traditional English gentleman who is in London to take his wife Evelyn to the doctor. When they part Clarissa feels self-conscious about her hat.	1	2	3	4	5	
Clarissa thinks about how she has always liked Hugh , though her husband Richard and her old friend Peter Walsh do not. Clarissa thinks again of Bourton years earlier, when Peter was making fun of Hugh for having no heart or brain, but only “the manners and breeding of an English gentleman.”	1	2	3	4	5	
Clarissa then thinks more about Peter Walsh , who has been in India for years but is returning soon. She imagines him critiquing her present life, and remembers him bringing her to tears by saying that she would marry a Prime Minister and become a “perfect hostess” someday. Peter had once asked Clarissa to marry him, but she refused him. Clarissa still feels that she does not live up to Peter’s standards, but she is also angered that Peter himself has failed to accomplish his dreams.	1	2	3	4	5	

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<p>Clarissa keeps walking and thinks about death. She has always felt that “it was very, very dangerous to live even one day.” She herself feels like an ordinary person, with little education but a gift for knowing people by instinct. She watches people in the street and imagines how such life will go on even after she is dead. She remembers some lines from Shakespeare’s <i>Cymbeline</i> about the comforts of death: “Fear no more the heat o’ the sun / Nor the furious winter’s rages.”</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>Clarissa looks at open books in a shop window. She thinks about how she does not do “things for themselves,” but only to affect other people’s opinions about her. She wishes that she was more like her hero, Lady Bexborough, who is large, dark, and opened a bazaar. Clarissa thinks of herself as small and birdlike, and she is conscious that the world sees her as invisible, an extension of her politician husband – as “Mrs. Richard Dalloway” instead of “Clarissa.”</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>Clarissa walks past a glove shop and thinks about her daughter, Elizabeth, who cares nothing for fashion but loves her dog and has been spending a lot of time with her history teacher, Miss Kilman. Miss Kilman takes Elizabeth to communion and reads the prayer book with her, which upsets the atheistic Clarissa. Clarissa worries that Elizabeth might be falling in love with Miss Kilman, but Richard</p>	1	2	3	4	5	

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thinks it is just a phase.						
Miss Kilman always wears an uncomfortable mackintosh (a rubber raincoat), which Clarissa sees as Miss Kilman's way of constantly reminding the world of what a martyr she is for being poor and unattractive. Clarissa hates Miss Kilman for this, for her bitterness and the superiority she derives from her own poverty, but Clarissa recognizes that her hatred is irrational. She thinks of this hatred as a monster living in her soul.	1	2	3	4	5	
Clarissa goes into the flower shop and is comforted by all the beautiful flowers. She has done a favor in the past for Miss Pym , the flower shop owner, and Clarissa tries to let the flowers' beauty and Miss Pym's "liking her" wash away her hatred of Miss Kilman . Clarissa suddenly thinks she hears a pistol shot in the street, but Miss Pym says it is only a car backfiring.	1	2	3	4	5	