A lame excuse 🡪 a bad excuse

A souvenir = an object to remember.

To drill = To drill for oil

1. The narrator’s Body.
2. Choose two colours and underline the words used to describe her body and relationship to it before and now.
3. What can you conclude?

Before 🡪 free/powerful/independent/confident/proud.

Now 🡪 empty/sinking/low/escaping her

She is discussed by her own body.

1. Describe the feelings she experiences every month regarding her body.

Terrified of having her periods No baby 🡪 ceremony 🡪 rape.

1. What about her body and other people now compared to the past?

Before, she was the own master of her body.

Now her body has become the instrument of others.

Style Lab:

Womb 🡪 moon/swamp/pear/wave/sky/fenland

2.

a. Look up the symbolisms of the following words.

pear: Feminine erotic symbol 🡪 virginity/child

moon: woman’s cycle menstruation

wave: tidal/cycle 🡪 menstruation

sky: infinity and God’s territory

b. Do you think they were chosen randomly or on purpose to describe her body? Why? Explain.

On purpose, to bare children, cause the wife’s are barren.

Offred’s body belongs to Gilead and ot Gd. Her purpose is now to bear children.

3. Check your understanding

a. The narrator’s purpose is to show the evolution of her image about her body. She must get pregnant.

b. Her menstruation means failure! 🡪 ceremony 🡪 rape.

c. Her body no longer is her own/ an instrument of pleasure.

d. In this passage, her womb is turned into a landscape where the sky, the moon, the waves symbolise women’s mensuration/cycle and eternity.