\*\*What happens in the story?\*\*

A woman gives birth at Hvidovre Hospital and experiences a surreal night while bleeding heavily. She encounters other postpartum women wandering the corridors, searching for their children. After discovering her baby missing then mysteriously changed, she follows the women outside where they whitewash a hospital wall with lime milk, bleeding as they work. Another mother takes the wrong baby home in a laundry bag. The narrator returns home with a child that isn't hers, which her husband doesn't notice. She remembers this each May.

\*\*What is the theme?\*\*

The story explores the liminal, dissociative experience of childbirth and early motherhood—the physical trauma, psychological disorientation, and loss of identity women undergo. It examines how childbirth exists at the boundary between life and death, self and other, revealing the uncanny nature of creating life. The theme encompasses maternal alienation, the invisible labor of women, and the dreamlike state between consciousness and unconsciousness that characterizes the immediate postpartum period. \*\*Does it propose other interpretations, in addition to the literal one?\*\* Rating: 5 (Totally agree)

\*\*Which interpretation is it?\*\*

The story functions as a surrealist allegory for postpartum depression/psychosis and the erasure of maternal identity. The whitewashing scene symbolizes women's invisible maintenance work and bodily sacrifice. The baby switching represents dissociation from one's child and the fear of not recognizing or bonding with them. The underground hospital suggests the hidden, subterranean nature of women's reproductive experiences. The recurring May awakening implies trauma's cyclical return and the haunting nature of what's lost in motherhood.