



Unit 9 — A Novel in Full

Track E · Klasse 12 · Niveau E (Basisfach / Leistungsfach)

Learning objectives

- *I can read a complete novel (Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* or Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun*) and write a sustained 500-word essay tracing one motif across the whole work.*
- *I can move between close reading and structural argument fluidly.*
- *I can use the full literary-analysis toolkit at Leistungsfach (advanced course) standard.*

Lead-in

The class has been reading *The Handmaid's Tale* (Atwood, 1985) since Week 12. Today is the whole-novel essay checkpoint. Students have been keeping a two-page motif log per chapter; the logs converge, predictably, on three motifs: language as instrument of control, the body as site of resistance, the double meaning of women's collusion.

Vocabulary

- motif
- leitmotif
- structural argument
- narrative arc
- chapter rhythm
- framing device
- epigraph
- frame narrative
- unreliable narrator
- polyphony
- focalisation

Practise

- Match: leitmotif → recurring motif; framing device → opening / closing structure; focalisation → point-of-view.
- T or F: a structural argument is the same as a thematic claim; a motif must appear at least three times to be a motif.
- Build a 4-sentence motif-trace for one motif across *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Your turn

Whole-novel essay, 500 words. Trace one motif across the whole novel. Use 5 integrated quotes (across at least three chapters) + 7 academic discourse markers + 1 cleft + 1 concession + counter-reading.

Reflect

- I can trace one motif across a whole novel.
- I can move between close reading and structural argument.
- I can write a 500-word whole-novel essay at Leistungsfach standard.