Take Home Essay

Connecting Poetry to *The Handmaid’s Tale*

**Prompt:**

The following poem is concerned with the theme of power that is similarly portrayed in *THT*. Read the poem and annotate carefully. Then in a well-organized essay analyze how the speaker in the poem uses imagery to reveal their attitude toward power.

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| **A Work of Artifice**  Marge Piercy | |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23 | The bonsai tree  in the attractive pot  could have grown eighty feet tall  on the side of the mountain  till split by lighting.  But a gardener  carefully pruned it.  It is nine inches high.  Every day as he whiddles back the branches  the gardener croons,  It is your nature  to be small and cozy,  domestic and weak;  how lucky, little tree,  to have a pot to grow in.  With living creatures  one must begin very early  to dwarf their growth:  the bound feet,  the crippled brain,  the hair in curlers,  the hands you  love to touch. |