 ‘The natural way of things’ extract - by Charlotte Wood

Resource 3

Analysis Questions:

1. Summarise what you think it happening in this extract? (Context for novel should be sufficiently covered in ‘The Book Club’ video).
2. What does this extract suggest about the way men and women interact in society? You might refer to the constructs of power and authority, patriarchy and female sexuality and subservience in your response.
3. What are some examples of sexism in the extract? (Teacher many need to provide some contextual information on ‘slut-shaming’ culture, online misogyny, etc.).
4. Create a table that considers the author’s use of figurative language in the extract. Table should include the following techniques: symbols, metaphor, simile, animal imagery, expletives, dialogue, colloquialisms.
5. The composer uses alternating chapters to move the narrative between the points of view of the two female characters. How does the Wood differentiate between the women? Does the representation of men differ between the points of view?
6. What gender roles are the ‘girls’ alluded to have played/performed in their lives before imprisonment? Have these roles conformed to the demands of patriarchal power? (see [Reading Australia ‘The natural way of things’ resource](https://readingaustralia.com.au/lesson/natural-way-things/#previous).)
7. ‘The Natural Way of Things’ has been described as a “gripping, starkly imaginative exploration of contemporary misogyny and corporate control, and of what it means to hunt and be hunted.” ([Readings](https://www.readings.com.au/news/read-an-excerpt-from-the-natural-way-of-things-by-charlotte-wood)) How were the themes of misogyny and corporate control reflected in the extract?
8. What dominant social views are explored/challenged in the extract? How does the extract adhere to the notion of a ‘counter narrative’?
9. How has this text shaped our perception of ourselves and others?