

Name:
Date:

Ms. Lopez
Period:

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest Study Guide

PART 1 (pages 9-128)

1. Who are "they?" (9)

2. How does the Chief say the men were able to detect him sneaking along the wall? What is a more likely reason they were able to notice him? (9)

3. What is the Chief's "cagey" trick? What does he say has given him the ability to be cagey? (10)

4. What does the Chief say is in the Big Nurse's purse (and not in it)? (10)

5. The Big Nurse scolds the aides for not working. Describe what the Chief sees happen. (10-11)

6. What does the Chief say annoys the Nurse about herself? (11)

7. Why is the Chief afraid of being shaved? Who does he say will do this to him? (12)

8. What story does the Chief tell about his past? Explain its relevance to his current situation. (12)

9. What is the Chief saying he's going to tell you? Who is "you?" (13)

10. What happened to the Chief as a result of his outburst during shaving? What did not happen? (14)

11. How does McMurphy differ from a typical new "Admission?" (15-16)

12. Identify the season and its significance. (16)

13. Where has McMurphy come from? Why is he at the hospital? (17-18)

14. To what *four* different people does the Chief compare McMurphy? (16-17)

15. Describe the "Acutes" and the "Chronics." (19)

16. Who is Ellis? (19-20)

17. Who is Ruckly? (20-21)

18. Which patient has been on the ward the longest? Who has been there longer? (21)

19. Why don't the Acutes and Chronics mingle? How does Nurse Ratched use this to her advantage? (21-22)

20. What, and who, is the bull goose loony? Who becomes the new bull goose loony? (22-23)

21. What do you immediately notice about Billy? (22-23)

22. Explain what "bothers" Harding. (23)

23. What facts do we learn about Harding? (23-24)

24. What does McMurphy say is his career? (24)

25. Explain McMurphy's interaction with Ellis. (25)

26. What does the Chief say happens when McMurphy shakes his hand? (31)

27. What is “the Combine?” (30)

28. Explain how the Nurse “accumulated her ideal staff.” (31)

29. What quality must an aide possess to work on the ward? (31)

30. Describe each aide

First Aide (31-32):

Second Aide (32):

Third Aide (32):

31. How does the Chief say the Big Nurse communicates with the aides? (32)

32. Earlier in the section, Nurse Ratched compares McMurphy to a former patient, Maxwell Taber. What incident does the Chief recall involving Taber? What happened to Taber as a result? (35-41)

33. What does the Chief say he found when he crushed up a pill? (35)

34. What happens to “the machinery” when the young residents come? (37) What happens to the machinery when the Big Nurse is in complete control? (37-38)

35. According to the Chief, what is the purpose of the hospital ward? (40)

36. Who is always tired?

37. McMurphy's full name: _____ Age: _____

Escaped from where? _____

One arrest for: _____

Was he convicted? _____ Why or why not? _____

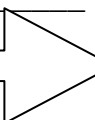
38. How is McMurphy's explanation about his Uncle Hallhan really a threat? Who is being threatened? (45)

39. What is the "theory" of the Therapeutic Community? (48+)

40. Old Pete Bancini has a moment of clarity. What is he "tired" of? (52)

41. Why does McMurphy call the group meeting "a peckin' party?" Who pecks the first peck? (55)

42. How is the ward "a matriarchy" as Harding describes it? What does this matriarchy do to men? (59+)

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43. What can Nurse Ratched do to them? (59, 64+)

44. What creatures do these men see themselves as? Why? (61+)

45. What do we learn about the Chief? (65)

46. What is the “weapon” against the modern matriarchy? Why can't McMurphy use it on the Nurse? (66+)

47. What does McMurphy bet the men? (67+)

48. Who had been “cured” on the ward? (70)

49. How has the ward changed since McMurphy's arrival? (71)

50. What annoys McMurphy? Why doesn't it annoy the others? (73+)

51. How does McMurphy keep the men gambling? (74+)

52. Describe McMurphy's shorts. (75)

53. What does McMurphy learn about Chief Bromden? How does he know? (77)

54. The Chief has a hallucination, or as Mr. Turkle sees it, “a bad dream.” What is it about? Is there any truth to it? Explain (78-82)

55. What things is McMurphy doing that show he is not the typical patient? (83+)

56. What makes McMurphy a good con man? Quote it. (84)

57. How does McMurphy annoy Nurse Ratched? How does she react? (87+)

58. Despite McMurphy’s efforts, how does the Nurse keep control over the patients? (90+)

59. What is McMurphy desperately trying to get the men to do? (92)

60. Despite McMurphy’s efforts, ultimately, the Nurse is still in control. How can you tell? (101)

61. How does McMurphy show kindness to Martini during the Monopoly game? (102+)

62. Who wins the first vote to watch the World Series? Why? (104+)

63. What does McMurphy bet the men he can do? Of what might this item be symbolic? (109+)

64. Obviously, McMurphy loses this bet. If he knew he couldn't win, what was he trying to prove to the men? (110+)

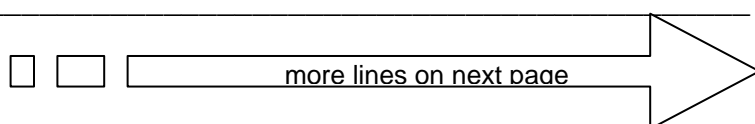
65. What does McMurphy keep trying to do? (114)

66. What happened to Old Rawler up on Disturbed? What does the Chief mean by saying, "all the guy had to do was wait"? (115)

67. What is the fog like for the Chief? (116+)

68. What is the first word Billy stuttered? What does this reveal about him? (119, 121)

69. How does McMurphy lose the second World Series vote? (123+)



70. What does the Chief admit to doing? (126)

71. The Chief says if someone saw the final scene, “they’d of thought the whole bunch was crazy as loons.” Why? In your opinion, are they crazy? Explain (127)

PART 2 (pages 130-173)

72. What has happened to the fog? (130)

73. What does the Chief fear now that he raised his hand? Is there any indication that his fear is correct? (130+)

74. What do the residents ultimately decide should be done with McMurphy? (135)

75. What does the resident with the pipe conclude McMurphy suffers from? (135)

76. Why does Nurse Ratched disagree with the residents' suggestion? (136)

77. What does the Nurse suggest be done with McMurphy? (136)

78. What is the significance of the fact that McMurphy is "committed"? (137)

79. Now that McMurphy has won the bet, how does he behave? (138+)

80. How does the Nurse react to McMurphy's behavior? (138+)

81. What about McMurphy surprises the Chief? (140)

82. What does the Chief see out the window? Comment on its significance to the events of the story. (142+)

83. What things do the men feel need changing? (145+)

84. Why does the Chief think McMurphy is standing in a hole? What idea does the Chief have that makes him think that? (147)

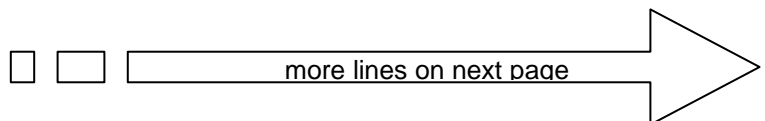
85. What's wrong with the lifeguard? (147+)

86. What does McMurphy learn from the lifeguard? (147+)

87. How does McMurphy change with this news? Why? (149+)

88. How do the Acutes feel about McMurphy's change? (151)

89. Exactly what happens to Cheswick? Do you think it was an accident? Explain. (151)



90. What happens to Sefelt? Why? (152)

91. Why is Bruce Fredrickson so upset about Sefelt? (153)

92. Why do Fredrickson and Sefelt have this arrangement? (153)

93. What are the side effects of Dilantin? As a result, what happens to Sefelt? (155)

94. How is McMurphy, like Sefelt? “damned if you do and damned if you don’t”? (155)

95. What does the Chief notice about the Combine’s mechanisms? (156)

96. How does Harding treat his wife? (158+)

97. Who does Vera say keeps coming to the house? What is she implying? (159)

98. Why does McMurphy insist he hasn't seen the missile Martini sees? (161)

99. What does Harding explain to McMurphy about EST? (162+)

100. According to Harding, why does Nurse Ratched order lobotomies for patients? (Quote it) (165)

101. What do McMurphy and the Chief understand about the source of the problems at the hospital? (165)

102. What does McMurphy accuse the men of looking at him as? (Quote it) (166)

103. What does McMurphy discover about the other patients? (167+)

104. Explain what Billy says, does, and what happens as a result. (168+)

105. As punishment for the World Series incident, what is Nurse Ratched going to do? (171)

106. What does McMurphy do? Why? (172)

PART 3 (pages 174-218)

107. Since McMurphy is “back in the hassle,” what has he been doing? (174+)

108. How have the others begun to disregard Nurse Ratched?

Dr. Spivey? (175)_____

Harding? (177)_____

Billy? (177)_____

109. How does McMurphy react to Nurse Ratched’s denial of his request for an Accompanied Pass? (175+)

110. What does the Chief recall as the first time he realized no one listens to him? (178+)

111. What is the government woman's plan for getting the Indian's land? Why does she want it? (182)

112. How does McMurphy discover the Chief can speak? (185)

113. What story does McMurphy tell the Chief? How is it similar to the Chief's experience? (185+)

114. What does the Chief explain about his mother and father? (186+)

115. What does the Chief warn McMurphy about? How does McMurphy react? (187+)

116. What two things does McMurphy promise the Chief? What does McMurphy want the Chief to do? (189+)

117. Why does the Chief walk away from the aides? (191)

118. Who is McMurphy's last volunteer for the trip? Why is this character hesitant? Why does McMurphy really need him? (193+)

119. Describe Candy Starr. (195+)

120. What happens to the machinery when Candy enters the ward? (197)

121. What does Nurse Ratched get McMurphy to reveal about the trip? (197+)

122. Why is the trip almost canceled? How does McMurphy solve the problem? (197+)

123. List the names of all the participants of the fishing trip. What is the significance of the number? (199)

124. What does the doctor do that makes the men ashamed of themselves? (199+)

125. How does McMurphy give them back their self-respect? (200+)

126. What does the Chief notice about the world? (203+)

127. Why won't Captain Block let the men go out on the boat? (204+)

128. How does McMurphy convince the captain to let them take the boat out alone? (207)

129. When the sea gets rough, who offers to forgo a life jacket? Who, in particular, does not offer his life jacket? (213+)

130. What does McMurphy arrange for Billy? (215+)

131. In the dark, the Chief sees McMurphy's face. How does he describe it? Quote it. (218)

PART 4 (pages 219-272)

132. How does Nurse Ratched attempt to undermine the men's admiration of McMurphy? (219+)

133. How does Harding respond to her statements? (223+)

134. Who still believes in McMurphy's selflessness? (224) How is each one's idea shattered? (224+)

135. What punishment does Nurse Ratched give for the men's fishing trip? (227)

136. The Chief says, "we'd been all wrong about McMurphy." What does McMurphy do that proves this to the Chief? (228+)

137. Why does the Chief get involved? (231)

138. Where do McMurphy and the Chief end up? (231)

139. How does McMurphy behave with the new men? (232)

140. What hadn't occurred to the Chief about McMurphy until he saw him in the Nurse's Station? (233)

141. What does the little Japanese nurse say about Nurse Ratched's ward? (233+)

142. What does Nurse Ratched inform McMurphy will be done to him? (235)

143. What must McMurphy do to avoid Nurse Ratched's punishment? How does McMurphy react to the suggestion? (236)

144. The Chief recalls a nursery rhyme sung to him by his grandmother. Speculate on its meaning. Include who is Mrs. Tingle Tangle Toes, who are the hens, and who is the goose flying over? (239)

145. The Chief seems to be babbling incoherent nonsense after ECT. What does he realize as he comes around? (240+)

146. What does the Chief resolve never to do again? (241)

147. How does Nurse Ratched try to break McMurphy? How does McMurphy react? How does he react when the loudspeaker calls his name? (242+)

148. After all that has happened, why does Nurse Ratched want McMurphy back on her ward? (244)

149. What do the men plan for McMurphy? Why doesn't he agree to go along with it? (244)

150. What does the Chief tell us about Billy? (246+)

151. During the party, what happens to Sefelt? What is his reaction? (254)

152. Being drunk on Nurse Ratched's ward makes the Chief realize what about the Combine? Quote it. (255)

153. What plan does Harding contrive? (256)

154. According to Harding, what drives strong men down the road to crazy? (258)

155. Why doesn't Harding's escape plan work? (259)

156. What (or whom) does the Big Nurse find in the Seclusion Room? (263)

157. What does she say? How does Billy react? (264+)

158. What does Nurse Ratched say happened to Billy? To whom does she say it? Why? (266)

159. According to the Chief, why can't the men stop McMurphy? (267)

160. What does McMurphy do? (267)

161. Over the next three weeks, how do things on the ward change? (268+)

162. Regarding McMurphy, the Big Nurse says, "He will be back." How does he return? (269)

163. How do Scanlon and Martini react to McMurphy? (269+)

164. What does the Chief do to McMurphy? Why? (270+)

165. How has McMurphy shown the Chief how to escape? What is the symbolism of this action? (271)

166. Whose direction does the Chief follow? What had happened to that creature? What is being implied about the Chief's fight with the Combine? (272)

