

Mr. Hart

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest – Short Answer Questions

For each of the following, answer in complete sentences and give examples from the novel where appropriate. Each question may have different answers, so you should explain yourself (why did you answer the way you did). You may use a separate sheet of paper if necessary

1. Is Chief crazy? Is he a trustworthy narrator? Did the events that Chief narrates really happen? Is Nurse Ratched really all that bad?
2. Who wins the battle in the end—Nurse Ratched or McMurphy? Why?
3. How would the novel change if the story were told from McMurphy's point of view? What if it were told by Nurse Ratched's viewpoint?
4. How does Kesey make the reader question the accepted definitions of "sane," "insane," "sick," and "healthy"?
5. What does Harding's "problem" say about how we treat "outsiders" in our society? What about Billy or Chief? Do they belong in a hospital?