

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest: Study Guide Questions – Part 3

Chapter 1 - pgs. 205 - 224

1. How is Dr. Spivey affected by McMurphy towards Nurse Ratched?
2. What does McMurphy do when Nurse Ratched turns down his request for an accompanied pass? What grounds did Nurse Ratched cite for her refusal?
3. What happens in the basketball game against the aides? How do the patients gain victory?
4. How does basketball end? Who is responsible?
5. What is McMurphy's next plan? How does Nurse Ratched try to undermine it? Why doesn't the Chief sign up?
6. Describe the visit the Chief remembers from his youth. Discuss how they treat Chief Bromden (as a child). How does the Chief, as a boy, try to get the better of them? What results from this? Why is this important to the novel?
7. What does Sam the aide find? Why does McMurphy confront him? What does McMurphy do for the Chief?
8. What surprise does the Chief give McMurphy? What does McMurphy learn about the Chief's self-image?
9. What warning does the Chief give McMurphy? Why does the Chief want to touch him?

Chapter 2 - pgs. 225 - 258

10. Who is McMurphy's final member of the crew? How is this fortuitous? What is this man's condition, and how does McMurphy calm his fears?
11. What is Candy's occupation? What effect does she have on the patients? Who is affected the most? Why?

12. How does Nurse Ratched try to foil the trip? How does McMurphy avert disaster?
13. How do the men initially react to being outside the hospital?
14. How do the service station men take advantage of Dr. Spivey? How does McMurphy turn it around? What irony does Harding observe about this interaction?
15. What signs of the Combine does the Chief see? Are these observations accurate?
16. What problem does the group face as they arrive at the dock? How does McMurphy overcome this?
17. Comment on Martini's observation of the deep: "Oh. Oh, my God," he said, but whatever he saw was too deep for the rest of us." Is Martini a visionary? Is he mentally ill, or is he a prophet? How do you know?
18. How does McMurphy react when the group, including the doctor, calls him for help? Why does he act this way?
19. Who catches the big fish? Why is it important that he refuses help?
20. How has Dr. Spivey changed? How does he overcome the police and boat owner?
21. What does everyone learn about George? How do the dock men treat them now, and why is this important?
22. What does McMurphy think is Billy's problem, and what arrangement does he make to solve it?
23. What is the story behind the dress in the tree? What does the dress symbolize?
24. What disturbing detail does the Chief notice about McMurphy? What is its cause? What does McMurphy telling the story in the car while the men fall asleep resemble?