

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Contemporary Lit
Mr. Hart

One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest – Study Guide - Part 4

Chapter 1 - pgs. 261 - 275

1. How does Nurse Ratched deal with the men after the fishing trip?
2. How does McMurphy upset Chief? How is the Chief's accusation ironic?
3. What happens in the shower scene? Why does the Chief get involved? How do the men consider this a victory? How are they wrong?

Chapter 2 - pgs. 276 - 288

4. Where have Chief and McMurphy been sent? How does this compare to their ward?
5. How does Nurse Ratched employ EST when it comes to McMurphy?
6. What is symbolic about the following comment by McMurphy: "Anointest my head with conductant. Do I get a crown of thorns?"
7. While enduring the EST, Chief recalls his grandmother's rhyme. Why does he especially like the goose who flies over the cuckoo's nest? Why is the poem symbolic for this book?
8. What considerable victory does the Chief attain at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 3 - pgs. 289 - 309

9. How does Nurse Ratched continue her reign of terror against McMurphy? How does McMurphy respond to her each time?

10. What does Nurse Ratched imply by saying “more drastic means might be required to make contact with him”?
11. What plan do the patients hatch for McMurphy? What is his response?
12. What does Harding do when the Night Supervisor shows up? How is this significant?
13. What does Chief realize about their freedom and the power of the Combine? Is he right?
14. How does Harding employ euphemism in his explanation of his illness? What exactly is his illness, and how has society created it? How does the chapter end?

Chapter 4 - pgs. 310 - 325

15. How do the patients react as Nurse Ratched demands information from each of them about Billy's location? What tactic does she exploit when she confronts Billy?
16. What happens to Billy? How does Nurse Ratched react, and how does she relay this to McMurphy? What else does she blame McMurphy for, and is this justified?
17. What does McMurphy do? Why don't the patients try to stop him? Why don't the aides try to stop him? Who does stop him? What is the meaning of the final cry McMurphy utters?
18. What becomes of McMurphy? How do the patients initially react?
19. How does the Chief carry out his final act with McMurphy? How does the Chief feel? What does Scanlon say to him, and what must the Chief do?
20. What aspect of McMurphy's personality has the Chief inherited?