

Name: _____

Date: _____

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest – Study Guide: Chapters 11-15

Chapter 11 (p. 117 – 125)

1. What temporary change to the ward schedule does McMurphy propose? How does Nurse Ratched argue against it? Why does McMurphy get angry at the other patients? Who supports him? How do the patients explain themselves?
2. Why does McMurphy make the bet to life the hydrotherapy unit? How is his attitude important in this scene? What significance do his last words have towards the patients and their situation?

Chapter 12 (p. 126 – 127)

3. Why does the Chief feel so connected to the painting? What is the significance of this? How is it significant that the fisherman isn't fishing properly?
4. Why does the Chief portray the visiting doctor as a skeleton? Why does the Chief suppose the doctor feels the cold wind from the mountain in the painting?
5. Explain the irony of the public relations man's comment: "A man that would want to run away from a place as nice as this ... why, there'd be something wrong with him."

Chapter 13 - 14 (p. 128 – 129)

6. How does the Chief perceive McMurphy's attempts to drag them "out of the fog"? How do you think McMurphy perceives it?
7. Of all the ways a person could kill himself, what is significant about the fact that Old Rawler cut off his own testicles and bled to death? Why does the Chief think he didn't need to bother?

Chapter 15 (p. 130 – 145)

8. What do we learn about the Chief's past at the beginning of the chapter? How might this past employment have contributed to his mental illness?
9. What insight do we gain into the Chief's apparent, but false, deafness and dumbness, and how is EST related to it?
10. How does the fog relate to the public relations man and Nurse Ratched's control fixation? What is the symbolic importance of the fog?
11. What example of a syllogism does Colonel Matterson use? What comment does this make about the validity of logic?
12. What does the Chief say about helping friends? How does this comment on what McMurphy is doing in the hospital?
13. What new vote does McMurphy call? How does Nurse Ratched defeat him? Who saves the vote, and why? How does Nurse Ratched preserve her victory?
14. How does McMurphy win in the end? How do the others support him? What important keywords give away the Nurse's true nature? How does Nurse Ratched's behavior at the end of this scene comment on how ridiculous the hospital is?