

Name:

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest Study Questions: Chapters 6-10

Chapter 6 (p. 76 - 84)

1. What's the significance of the story of the man who visits the ward on Christmas night? Who is he supposed to remind us of? What happens to him?
2. What are some of the details of Chief's illness which are introduced in this chapter?
3. What happens between McMurphy and Nurse Pilbow? What is ironic about this scene?
4. Comment on the heavy use of symbolism at the end of this chapter. Consider the Nurse's birthmark, her crucifix, McMurphy's tattoos, and the OSU co-ed who says that McMurphy is a symbol (of what?).
5. What does McMurphy discover about the Chief at the end of the chapter? What does this tell us about the idea of perception in this story?

Chapter 7 (p. 85 – 90)

6. Why does the Chief think the staff gives him pills at night?
7. Describe the disturbing vision the Chief experiences while in bed. What is the symbolic importance of the machinery?
8. Whose death does the Chief prophesize in his vision?

Chapter 8 (p. 91 – 101)

9. What seemingly harmless activities are McMurphy doing that disturbs the ward? How does this relate to undermining the staff's control of the ward?
10. How does McMurphy inadvertently (but happily) set Nurse Ratched into a fury against the aides?
11. What olfactory (smelling) "imagery" does the Chief use to contrast McMurphy to the hospital? What does this say about McMurphy?

Chapter 9 (p. 102 – 113)

12. How does Nurse Ratched get McMurphy back for the towel incident? What ward policy does she employ? Why does this policy exist? How does the policy match what the Chief says about the Combine?
13. What cheerful idea does McMurphy have? Who supports it? How (and why) does Nurse Ratched deny this idea?
14. Why does Nurse Ratched have the small twitches of her face? When do they occur?
15. How does McMurphy get the upper hand in this chapter? What does the Chief know about how this will end up?

Chapter 10 (p. 114 – 116)

16. Describe what role McMurphy plays in the Monopoly game. How does this comment on his character?