One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; 1-41

Introduction	The first scene sets up the novel. It is an example of "in medias res" or beginning in the middle of things. This first part of the novel takes us through exposition, the daily life of the ward. Be patient with your narrator, Bromden. He has had too much electroshock and drugs.
Up Close	It's obvious Bromden has some problems. Find two passages that show his hallucinations and mark them with Post-It Notes.
Questions	1. What is the Combine? What does Bromden think its purpose is? What does this tell us about him? 2. What is the last line of Chapter One? Explain. What does it mean? What does that imply about the rest of the story? Sum up Bromden's history. How did he become deaf and dumb? 3. What is unusual about McMurphy? How does his voice and his laughter affect the ward? How are his hands different from Harding's? 4. Usually, what happens in the morning at the ward? How is Maxwell Taber important here? What did he do that got him in trouble? How does Bromden imagine Taber's life? Is that really a "successful Dismissal"? 5. What happens if a patient doesn't take his medicine? Medicine could be a metaphor for something else. What might that be?

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; 42-82

Introduction	With McMurphy, the ward begins to change and the fundamental battle between Ratched and McMurphy looms.
Up Close	Pick two consecutive paragraphs in the reading that seem to be the ultimate in Nurse Ratched. Mark them with a Post-It Note.
Questions	6. Is the fog real? Why do you think so? Why does Bromden need the fog? 7. What is the hypothetical good intention of the meeting? What is the reality? How does Harding get hurt? 8. Nurse Ratched repeatedly calls McMurphy "McMurry." Why? How do they both try to show their power during that conversation? How has Pete Bancini tried to avoid the controls of the Combine? How has McMurphy managed to avoid the Combine? 9. What is the difference between a chicken and a rabbit? In other books, what characters are rabbits? What characters are chickens? When have you felt like either a chicken or a rabbit? 10. What is the bet? How does McMurphy reveal that he knows Bromden's secret? How is sleeping without medication different from sleeping with it for Bromden?

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; 83-128

Introduction	Ratched loses her first battle ever and manhood is ecstatic.
Up Close	People in general, like the inmates, are afraid of standing up for themselves and would rather hide in a crowd. Find a page or a selection that shows this well and mark it with a Post-It Note.
Questions	11. What does McMurphy do early in the morning? How does he win his bet? 12. How does McMurphy manipulate Spivey? How does Ratched manipulate Spivey? Describe how Ratched is able to turn McMurphy's complaints about the radio into an example of his insensitivity toward others. 13. What does McMurphy teach them in the Tub room? Does it work? One critic has said that the men "hate" McMurphy. Why might this event show this? What does McMurphy force them to do? 14. What memory makes Bromden believe he is in man-made fog? What will happen if he looses himself in the fog? In the past, where did the fog always lead Bromden at the hospital? Why did he always end up there? How does McMurphy bring Bromden back? What unusual thing happens to Bromden when McMurphy brings him back? 15. What trick does Ratched pull in the voting? Why might the men have trusted her before? Why don't they now? What happens to her when the men watch TV? How is that "the truth, even if it never happened"?

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; 129-173

Introduction	Part II of the novel begins with the problems of rule. Nurse Ratched works to regain the control she has lost, while McMurphy becomes a full-fledged insurrectionist.
Up Close	By now, a power struggle is obvious. Find two paragraphs that show this struggle and mark them with Post-It Notes.
Questions	16. Explain what Bromden means when he says, "I'm just getting the full force of the dangers we let ourselves in for when we let McMurphy lure us out of the fog." What does Bromden remember happening at the staff meeting? What was his role? 17. How does Ratched manipulate the meeting without saying anything? What does that say about the other doctors? Why does Ratched want to keep McMurphy on the ward? Does her plan make sense? 18. Why isn't McMurphy totally confident about his control over Ratched? What does McMurphy learn at the pool? Who tells him this? How has McMurphy changed? What has changed him? Is he thinking for himself or for others (Man Thinking or mere thinker)? 19. What happens with Cheswick? What is his demise? Compare that to Rawler. Explain "hydrotherapy." Summarize the history of EST. Summarize the punishment Ratched designs for the mutiny and McMurphy's response. 20. How does the window get broken repeatedly? What power does McMurphy have over Ratched? What power does Ratched have over McMurphy?

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; 174-190

Introduction	One section ends, another begins. Self-sacrifice and healing become the guiding force in McMurphy's life. Ratched, however, gets the machine going again.
Up Close	McMurphy works hard at giving the men their "manhoods" back. Find a passage where the men are becoming whole again and mark it with a Post-It Note.
Questions	21. What is an Accompanied Pass and what does McMurphy plan to do with one? What difficulty does McMurphy have once he gets the Accompanied Pass? 22. How is basketball good therapy for the inmates? What does it force them to do? How is it different from the talks? 23. Explain what Bromden means when he says, "I had to keep on acting deaf if I wanted to hear anything at all." Why is Bromden getting his hearing back? 24. Explain what Bromden means when he says, "when they find the words don't have any place ready-made where they'll fit, the machinery disposes of the words like they weren't even spoken." 25. What are the first words Bromden says? What does that show about McMurphy? How has McMurphy changed since the first chapter? 26. What plan does McMurphy have for Bromden? Why?

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; 191-218

Introduction	The men are pulled from the Combine and dropped into the ocean.
Up Close	You don't always have to be directly involved in order to help out. Find two passages where McMurphy helps by standing aside and mark them with Post-It Notes.
Questions	27. Who is more powerful: Candy or Ratched? Explain. 28. Who is George? Include a summary of how he joined the fishing trip. How is McMurphy able to solve the problem of being one car short? 29. Explain how the incident at the gas station changes the patients. What is the difference between McMurphy's and Spivey's approach to the serviceman? Which one shows more pride? 30. Briefly explain how the patients react to the loafers on the dock. Compare that interaction to the way the patients reacted at the gas station. Why is anything different between those two situations? 31. What does George do at the dock? What does this show about him? 32. Why is McMurphy tired? What has Bromden said earlier that could give you a reason for McMurphy 's exhaustion?

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; 219-241

Introduction	This story moves towards its inevitable and painful conclusion.
Up Close	McMurphy's ultimate triumph comes from the men. They are now ready to join the world, for better or worse. Find three paragraphs that show this and mark them with Post-It Notes.
Questions	33. How does the nurse begin to successfully sway the men? What is the nurse implying about McMurphy? How does Harding refute it? Is Harding right? 34. What are the black boys going to do in the tub room? Why does McMurphy have a "helpless, cornered despair" in his voice? Describe McMurphy's fighting style. Does it fit his personality? 35. Describe what happens to Bromden during the night. Describe the option Ratched gives McMurphy when she goes to see him up on the Disturbed ward. Why can't he take the deal? 36. McMurphy approaches his experience in the Shock Shop in a way that is meant to help Bromden. Describe what he does for Bromden's benefit. Why is it difficult for Ratched to keep McMurphy up on Disturbed? 37. After the words "AIR RAID" on 238, why does the narration get confused?

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; 242-272

Introduction	The novel ends in bittersweet triumph. Think about the positive stuff here, and not the sacrifice.
Up Close	Find a passage that clearly focuses on Billy and mark it with a Post-It Note.
Questions	38. How old is Billy Bibbit? Is that a surprise to you? How did his mother hold him back? Have your parents held you back in a similar way? 39. Harding draws up a plan for McMurphy. What important change does this show in Harding? 40. Why are the men not rabbits now? Why did they enter the hospital? Why did Harding? Why has McMurphy been getting more and more tired over the last hundred pages? 41. Where is Billy? What does Ratched do to regain control of Billy? Who is to blame for what happens to Billy? Why and how? 42. "'No,' I said, 'none of us blame you.' And wished I'd had my tongue pulled out as soon as I saw the way he looked at me." What does the look McMurphy gave Bromden say? 43. Summarize the attack. Why does McMurphy rip her shirt open? Overall, who wins on the ward? Why don't the patients believe that the person on the gurney is McMurphy? Go beyond, "It doesn't look like him." What really prevents them from recognizing him? Why does Bromden do that to McMurphy?