

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST:

Essential Questions

Directions: Write your responses to these questions on a separate sheet of paper. Your thoughtful responses need to include references to specific plot points. Please make sure you develop your ideas through explanation, not repetition, using quotations as often as you can. Label your responses with the appropriate pages.

Pages 9-41

1. Explain the following quotation:
“But it’s the truth even if it didn’t happen” (13).
2. What is unusual about McMurphy?

Pages 42-82

1. Why does Nurse Ratched repeatedly call McMurphy “McMurry”?
2. What is the bet?

Pages 83-128

1. How do Ratched and McMurphy each manipulate Spivey?
2. What trick does Ratched pull in the voting?

Pages 129-73

1. Explain the following quotation:
“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” (130).
2. Why isn’t McMurphy totally confident about his control over Ratched?

Pages 174-90

1. Explain the following quotation:
“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” (181).
2. What are the first words Bromden says and what does this show about McMurphy?

Pages 191-218

1. 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?
2. What does George do at the dock? According to this, what kind of person is he?

Pages 219-241

1. Describe what happens to Bromden during the night and why that’s significant.
2. What does McMurphy do at the Shock Shop for Bromden’s benefit?

Pages 242-272

1. Harding draws up a plan for McMurphy. What important change does this show in Harding?
2. Explain the following quotation:
“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” (266).