

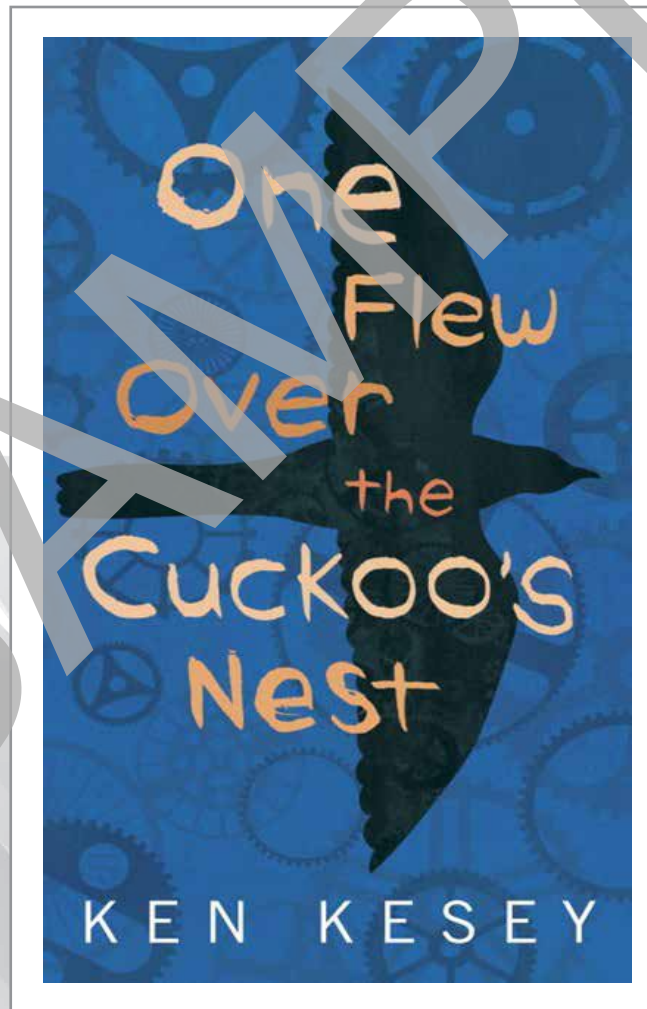


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Ken Kesey



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Ken Kesey

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

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Name _____

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Activity #2 • Anticipation Guide
Use Before Reading

Directions: Working with a partner, complete the following chart. Share your responses in a class discussion.

Denotation

Connotation

Mental Illness

Synonyms

Treatments

Name _____

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Starred questions indicate thought or opinion questions. Use your answers in class discussions, for writing assignments, and to review for tests.

Special Assignment: Using the Metaphors and Similes chart on page 15 of this guide, list metaphors and similes from each section. Continue this activity on your own paper.

Part One, pp. 9–41

1. Identify Chief Bromden, Nurse Ratched, and McMurphy and give two characteristics of each one. What is Bromden's nickname? Why?
2. *What does Bromden do when he feels threatened? What do you think this indicates about him?
3. *Identify the setting. How would you describe the atmosphere? Why?
4. Identify and explain the two classifications of patients on the ward when McMurphy arrives. Give the name of two patients in each classification. How is McMurphy classified?
5. *What metaphors does the narrator use to describe the hospital and the ward? What does this suggest to you?
6. What is Nurse Ratched's objective for each of the patients? What methods does she use to achieve this?
7. Who is Mr. Taber? Why does Nurse Ratched consider him to be a success story?
8. ***Prediction:** How will McMurphy keep the hospital from running smoothly?

pp. 42–69

1. Describe how Nurse Ratched manipulates the patients during the first Group Meeting McMurphy attends. What is Bromden tempted to do? Why doesn't he do so?
2. What does Ratched reveal about McMurphy? How does McMurphy react to her?
3. Why has McMurphy been sent to the mental hospital?
4. *Describe Dr. Spivey and explain whether or not you think he is competent.
5. *To what does McMurphy compare the Group Meeting? Explain what you think this means.
6. To what does Harding compare the patients? Why does he do so?
7. *How do the men react after the Group Meeting? Why are they all afraid to oppose Nurse Ratched? How do you think this affects McMurphy?
8. What does McMurphy wager he can do in one week? How much does each man bet?
9. Why does the author, Ken Kesey, capitalize phrases like "Group Meeting"?
10. ***Prediction:** Will McMurphy win the wager? How?

Name _____

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Activity #9 • Character Analysis
Use During and After Reading

Character Analysis Blocks

Directions: Analyze Nurse Ratched by completing the graphic below.

<i>Who is the character?</i>			
<i>What does the character do?</i>		<i>Why does s/he do it?</i>	
<i>What, if anything, is significant about the character's name?</i>	<i>What is the nature of this character's actions?</i> <small>(reactive, active, important, consequential, secondary)</small>	<i>What is the significance of the book's time and place to the character?</i>	
<i>What is unusual or important about the character?</i>	<i>How does the character change in the story?</i>	<i>Does the character remind you of another character from another book? Who?</i>	<i>Do you know anyone similar to this character?</i>

Name _____

Character Analysis

Directions: Working in small groups, discuss the attributes of the characters listed below. In each character's box, write several words or phrases that describe him or her.

Dale Harding	Vera Harding	George Sorensen	Billy Bibbit
Dr. Spivey	Candy	Mr. Turkle	hospital aides