

# Individual Learning Packet

## Teaching Unit

# Catch-22

by Joseph Heller

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ISBN 978-1-60389-728-0

Item No. 201116

# Catch-22

## Objectives

*By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:*

1. understand and explain the role of sarcasm and irony in creating satire
2. discuss what each of the following might symbolize or represent in the story:
  - The Solder in White
  - The Eternal City
  - Deja Vu
  - The Syndicate (M&M Enterprises)
  - Catch-22
3. analyze the differences between the public and private aspects of religion
4. discuss the following themes in this story:
  - The most basic force motivating most people is self-interest
  - Relationships based on self-gratification will ultimately be unsatisfying
  - Institutions will be as cruel as they need to be to survive
  - In a large society, the interests of the individual must be sacrificed for the greater good
5. identify and explain the ways that alliteration and oxymoron are combined to heighten the sense of paradox
6. identify examples of twisted dialogue and dry humor, and relate these examples to the author's style
7. discuss the relationship between the physical and emotional traits of characters in the novel
8. cite incidents from the story to illustrate the following theme: People can be fooled into following any sort of dogma as long as they are motivated by fear or by material gain
9. point out examples of allusions in the story and comment on how they enhance the reader's understanding of the narrator's ideas
10. find and define examples of numerous literary devices including metaphor, simile, alliteration, juxtaposition, oxymoron, polysyndeton, personification, etc.
11. discuss how point of view shifts within the third-person narrative

### Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. How do Aarfy's physical description and his comments reveal his moral character?
2. Describe the effect that the non-linear chronological structure of the novel has on the reader. Why do you think the author uses this construction?
3. Assess the overall effectiveness of Milo's syndicate. What positive and negative effects does it have on the squadron in particular, and the American Army in general?
4. List three incidents from the story that support the following theme: Relationships based on self-gratification will not be meaningful.
5. What do the differences between Colonel Korn and Colonel Cathcart tell the reader about the differences between practical reality and the reality imagined by administrative management?
6. Why has Yossarian lost his patriotism?
7. Explain the role of allusion in the story, using at least five examples.
8. Compare and contrast Nurse Cramer and Nurse Duckett.
9. Why does Yossarian fall in love with the chaplain?
10. Compare and contrast Yossarian's relationships with Nurse Duckett and Luciana.
11. Why do you think Yossarian misreads Orr so badly? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
12. How does Yossarian feel when, despite the fact that the upper military management is focused on infighting and politics, the American army is successful in the war?
13. What kind of language is used to express Yossarian's rebirth as a non-patriot after he returns with his crew from the Bologna raid?
14. What is *déjà vu*? How does it come into play in the plot of this novel?
15. Why does Nately experience such frustration with the old man in the apartment? Why does this old man remind Nately of his father?
16. Explain how the story of Milo's enterprise turns from literal tale into farce.

# Catch-22

## Chapter 1: The Texan

### VOCABULARY

- accord – will
- conciliating – soothing
- derogated – ridiculed or insulted
- echelon – level or rank
- epitome – ideal
- ethereal – beyond perception by the senses
- expurgating – eliminating
- glutinous – sticky
- intralinear – within the line
- jaundice – a yellowish discoloration of the whites of one’s eyes and skin, caused by diseases of the liver
- loony – crazy
- meticulously – with great care
- monotonous – unchanging, boring
- repercussions – consequences
- salutations – greetings
- squadron – a basic air force tactical unit

1. Why does Yossarian “fall in love” with the chaplain?

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2. How is antithesis used to introduce the idea of an inefficient medical establishment within the military?

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4. Where does Catch-22 make its second appearance?

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5. Contrast Yossarian's and Hungry Joe's responses to the raising of the mission requirement to 55?

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6. Compare Wintergreen's lack of sympathy towards Yossarian with Yossarian's own sense of self-preservation.

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## Chapter 12: Bologna

### VOCABULARY

**affront** – an offense  
**ecstatically** – with great happiness and excitement  
**emaciated** – unhealthily skinny  
**exuberantly** – joyfully  
**ignominiously** – without dignity or honor  
**incubating** – growing or maturing  
**macabre** – grotesque; dark  
**ruminates** – to think or meditate  
**sibilant** – hissing  
**vindictive** – seeking revenge  
**wraiths** – evil spirits

1. How is repetition used in describing capturing Bologna? What is the rhetorical effect?

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## Chapter 22: Milo the Mayor

### VOCABULARY

**abatement** – reduction  
**concupiscent** – sexually desirous  
**galvanic** – having the effect of an electric shock  
**gesticulating** – wildly gesturing  
**hangdog** – depressed or disappointed  
**virile** – strong in a masculine way

1. Why does Dobbs ask for Yossarian's help in murdering Colonel Cathcart?

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2. Why is the reader told about the absurd number of titles and honors that Milo has garnered throughout the Middle East and Africa?

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