

# One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

\*based on the novel by Ken Kesey

## 1. Randle McMurphy

- At the beginning of Act II, what are they using Ruckley for?
- How much time is on McMurphy's sentence?
- What does he learn about his fate from the other guys on the ward?
- What makes his sentence different than any other guy on the ward?
- Nurse Ratched agrees not to give him electro-shock if he is prepared to...
- What do the boys plan for McMurphy that night and how do they plan on doing it?
- What does McMurphy have planned...
  - a. for Billy→
  - b. for himself→
- What does Billy do in the end? Why?
- How does McMurphy react to the news of Billy? How does this develop his character?
- How does the Big Nurse punish McMurphy?
- What has become of McMurphy due to his sacrifice? Did his sacrifice matter?

## 2. Nurse Ratched

- What privileges does she take away from the men of the ward? Why?
- What does she demand from Chief? Why?
- Explain the men's response to Nurse Ratched when she tells them just how much money McMurphy has taken from them.
- What do we learn about Ruckley through Nurse Ratched and the other men?
- After Nurse Ratched crashes McMurphy's party, where does she find Billy and who is he with?
- As she chastises Billy, what does Billy do for the first time? (character growth?)
- What does she then threaten to do? (role of women)
- Who does Billy blame for the party (sleeping with Candy) and why does he do this?
- Explain who is to blame for what happens to Billy after he confesses his "wrong doings". Be specific.

# One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

\*based on the novel by Ken Kesey

## 3. Chief Bromdon

- What do we learn about Chief early in Act II? What does this tell you about his character?
- What does he want to become again? Explain.
- Where does Chief come from (parental lineage)
  1. mother:
  2. father:
- Why is Chief receiving electro-shock therapy?
- What does Chief do while McMurphy is given electro-shock? What does this show about Chief's character?
- What does Chief do at the party that surprises everyone?
- How has he changed?
- What does he do to McMurphy at the end of the play?
- Why does he do this for McMurphy?
- What does Chief say to Harding when he offers Chief the keys to break-out (how does Chief escape)?
- How has Chief grown from the beginning to the end of the play?
- In a short paragraph, argue who is the protagonist and who is the antagonist of the story. Provide two-three specific details to support your claim (be sure to use textual support to help develop your argument).