One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest

By Ken Kesey

Due Date: 1st Day of School
  • Read
  • 10 responses/reactions

Important characters and terms:

Randle Patrick McMurphy

Chief Bromden

Nurse Ratched

Harding

Billy Bibbit

Cheswick

Doctor Spivey

The Combine

The Acutes

The Chronics

The Orderlies
Frames for Analysis:

- Power
  - What is it and who has it?
  - How does this reflect or challenge our common conceptions?
  - Categories:
    - Women (nurses)
    - Women (wives)
    - African Americans
    - Native Americans
    - Men
    - Doctors and nurses

- “The Machine”/ Society
- Surveillance
- Hero (Tragic? Anti-hero?)
- The Outsider
- Medication/ medical practices
- Psychology
- Historical connections
- Identity
- “Evidence”

Sanity versus Insanity
- “Sanity is not statistical”
  - Winston, Nineteen Eighty-Four pg. 179

What does it mean to be alive?

How does this piece of literature aid and/or inform our understanding of the human condition?

“Literature is the question minus the answer”
- Roland Barthes