**One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest**

**PART 1: They’re out there.**

1. Why do the black hospital workers not “…bother not talking out loud about their hate secrets when.” the Chief is around? (Pg. 10) In what ways does being half-Indian help the Chief?

2. What does the following description of Nurse Ratched suggest to the reader about her character?
   “A mistake was made somehow in manufacturing, putting those big, womanly breasts on what would of otherwise been a perfect work, and you can see how bitter she is about it.” (Pg. 11)

Use the following passage from this section to answer the next three questions:
“(A blue tick hound bays out there in the fog, running scared and lost because he can’t see. No tracks on the ground but the ones he’s making, and he sniffs in every direction with his cold red-rubber nose and picks up no scent but his own fear, fear burning down into him like steam.) It’s gonna burn me just that way, finally telling about all this, about the hospital, and her, and the guys - and about McMurphy….this is too awful to be the truth!…But it’s the truth even if it didn’t happen.” (Pg. 13)

3. What relationship is the author suggesting between the blue tick hound and Chief Bromden?

4. Speculate on the significance of the fog in this story. What do you think it may symbolize? How do flashbacks of the Chief’s childhood help him find his way out of the fog?

5. In what ways is this passage an example of foreshadowing? How does point of view factor into the story?

**When the fog clears to where I can see, I’m sitting in the day room.**

1. How does the Chief know the new Admission is “no ordinary Admission”?

2. What evidence is there in this section of patient abuse?
3. Briefly describe R. P. McMurphy. What does the description of McMurphy’s hands suggest to the reader about his character? Why is the Chief impressed with McMurphy’s laugh?

4. Define “psychopath.” Why is McMurphy in the hospital?

The new man stands looking a minute, to get the set-up of the day room.
1. Briefly identify Ellis and Ruckly. Why do you think the author includes so many details about these two minor characters?

2. Describe Harding. Why do you think Billy identifies Harding as the “bull goose loony”? What do Harding’s hands reveal about his character?

3. What new information is revealed about Chief Bromden when McMurphy asks Billy Bibbit about him?

4. What pieces of information are revealed near the end of the section? (Pgs. 27-28)