

## CHARACTERIZATION

### Chief Bromden-

- was an electrical engineer in the Army
- Narrator; paranoid schizophrenic
- 6', 7" Chronic (not "fixable")
- paranoid; afraid McMurphy knows he's faking being deaf and dumb
- been there the longest of the patients (Since WWII)

### R.P. McMurphy -

- sits back and watches for now like a good gambler  
"watches the game for a while"
- His behavior makes the Acutes nervous b/c they fear the Nurse's reaction
- Came from Pendleton work farm to avoid jail
- devilish smile, rough hands, tattoos
- Nurse calls him a "manipulator" - she thinks he'll use everything and everyone to his benefit
- 35 years old, never married, arrested for statutory rape

### Nurse Ratched -

- controlling, mechanical and cold
- feared on the ward
- been there the longest of everyone

Written in Stream of consciousness.

## CHARACTERIZATION



Billy Bibbit -has a stutter

Colonel Materson -oldest, soldier, frisky

Ruckly -Acute to chronic; he's burnt from "head installation"; one of the youngest Chronics

Ellis -Nailed to the wall in the same position "like a stuffed trophy"; one of the youngest Chronics

Max Taber -gets sent for shock treatment after questioning his meds; is "cured" and released



Harding -The current "Bull Goose Loony"; President of Patient's Council with college degree & "pretty hands"

## How Does the Nurse Maintain Control?

- Log book - rewarded for squealing on each other
- Instills fear of Chronics - this is your cure - behave or "you'll end up on *that side*" (21)
- Hand picks the aides - makes sure they are complacent and "tuned in" to her hate
- Insinuates
- Makes notes in her book and smiles - doesn't react
- Rigid routine
- Makes an example of patients like "Taber"
- Keeps out outsiders who may not approve of her ways - small staff on the floor; doesn't like the residents that come in.
- confessions during group therapy - meant to shame them (49)

## How Does McMurphy Challenge the Nurse's Control?

## Theory of Therapeutic Community

to encourage conformity

- how a guy has to learn to get along in a group before he'll be able to function in a normal society; how the group can help the guy by showing him where he's out of place; how society is what decides who's sane and who isn't, so you got to measure up. All that stuff" - Chief (48).

support each other - peer therapy

if you don't comply - you need to be "fixed"

Dr. Spivey: "Our intention, he usually ends by saying, is to make this as much like your own democratic, free neighborhoods as possible - a little world Inside that is a made-to-scale prototype of the big world Outside that you will one day be taking your place in again" (48-49).

- microcosm of society  
- supposed to be democratic  
irony - it's a dictatorship

## Theory of Therapeutic Community

- how a guy has to learn to get along in a group before he'll be able to function in a normal society; how the group can help the guy by showing him where he's out of place; how society is what decides who's sane and who isn't, so you got to measure up. All that stuff" - Chief (48).

other patients help each other

conform or need "fixing"

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Democratic Society - people decide together  
a microcosm of society  
hope of release  
↓  
dictatorship run by Nurse

## Peter Bancini - pg 50

"I'm tired"

-Chronic all his life

-Dr. used tongs during delivery and, dented his head and caused brain damage

-in a moment of clarity/lucidity he punched orderly

"I was born dead..I been dead fifty-five years."



*passive moment of lucidity*  
"He had come to life for maybe a minute to try to tell us something, something none of us cared to listen to or tried to understand, and the effort had drained him dry.

That shot in his hip was as wasted as if she'd squirted it in a dead man - no heart to pump it, no vein to carry it up to his head, no brain up there for it to mortify with its poison. She'd just as well shot it in a dried-out old cadaver" (53).

*Was it really necessary?  
- doesn't conform & is punished*

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*What is it really necessary?*

*Was he really a risk*

*doesn't conform & is "treated" (punished)*



After Nurse injects the agitated Mr. Bancini -  
"Peter never tried anything like that again,  
and he never will. Now, when he starts  
acting up during a meeting and they try to  
hush him, he always hushes...it's like an old  
clock that won't tell time but won't stop  
neither...an old, worthless clock that just  
keeps ticking and cuckooing without meaning  
nothing" (53).

Result of her actions:

1. Bancini's compliant / conforms
2. Makes an ex. of him - control others

time/clocks - routine, predictable





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"Treatment" is Effective?  
1. Yes - he's compliant now/conforms  
2. Makes an ex. of him for other patients

## The Pecking Party

flaw/weakness  
 McMurphy: "The flock gets sight of a spot of blood on some chicken and they all go to peckin' at it, see, till they rip the chicken to shreds, blood and bones and feathers.



But usually a couple of the flock gets spots and gets pecked to death, and more and more. Oh, a peckin' party can wipe out the whole flock in a matter of a few hours, buddy, I seen it. A mighty awesome sight. The only way to prevent it - with chickens - is to clip blinders on them. So's they can't see" (55).

↳ prey on weakness / flaw / insecurity  
 - hysteria spreads → group mentality  
 - conformity / crowd mentality

McMurphy: Nurse "pecks the first peck"

↳ Nurse starts it by reading files aloud  
 Modes of control: pits them against each other → divides them

## The Pecking Party

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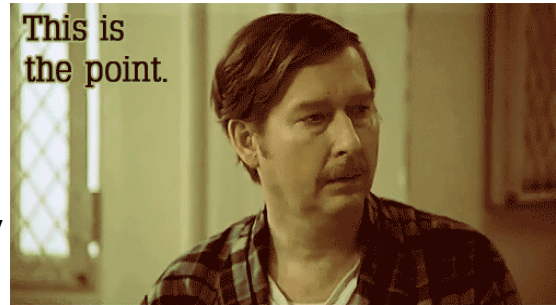
- attack each other's weaknesses
- group mentality -> vicious hysteria
- to make them all vulnerable

McMurphy: Nurse "pecks the first peck"

↳ if they're divided they won't overthrow  
pits them against each other

## "For My Own Benefit"

Harding: "You completely disregard, completely overlook and disregard the fact that what the fellows were doing today was for my own benefit? That any question or discussion raised by Miss Ratched or the rest of the staff is done solely for therapeutic reasons? You must not have heard a word of Doctor Spivey's theory of the Therapeutic Community, or not have had the education to comprehend it if you did...I had judged from our encounter this morning that you were more intelligent...I still make mistakes..." See pg. 56-57

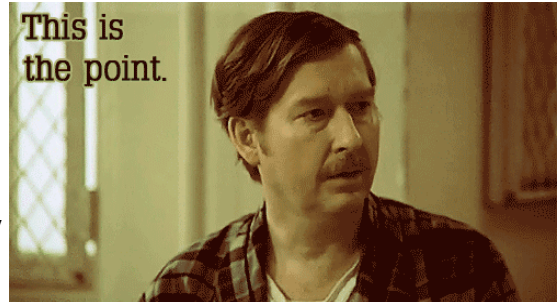


What are Harding's views of Nurse Ratched at this point? What does this prove?

He believes that Nurse's motivations are good - he's been brainwashed - Starts to realize the truth

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What are Harding's views of Nurse Ratched at this point? What does this prove?

This is for their benefit → he's brainwashed  
↳ he realizes he's brainwashed

Dr. on the ward - involved  
Dr. Spivey - 59 in group  
therapy



disempowered  
by  
Nurses

Harding: "Dr. Spivey...is exactly like the rest of us, McMurphy, completely conscious of his inadequacy. He's a frightened, desperate, ineffectual little rabbit, totally incapable of running this ward without our Miss Ratched's help, and he knows it. And, worse, she knows he knows it and reminds him every chance she gets. Every time she finds he's made a little slip in the bookwork or in, say, the charting you can just imagine her in there grinding his nose in it....We are victims of the matriarchy here, my friend, and the doctor is just as helpless against it as we are" (59).

disparaging/belittling

rule by women:  
women (Nurse) are  
cutting ↓ masculinity

## Dr. Spivey - 59



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→ He's spineless, can be controlled  
-She has disempowered her as well  
-he's under her control



### Rabbits & The Wolves

Nurse

Harding: "This world ...  
 belongs to the strong, my friend!  
 The ritual of our existence is based

on the strong getting stronger by devouring the weak. We must face up to this. No more than right that it should be this way. We must learn to accept it as a law of the natural world. The rabbits accept their role in the ritual and recognize the wolf as the strong. In defense, the rabbit becomes sly and frightened and elusive and he digs holes and hides when the wolf is about. And he endures, he goes on. He knows his place. He most certainly doesn't challenge the wolf to combat. Now, would that be wise? Would it?"

accept it

complacent

hard to catch

stay out of

her way radar

passively accepting  
 \*\*Don't even think of challenging her





### Rabbits & The Wolves

*Nurse*

Harding. "This world ... belongs to the strong, my friend! The ritual of our existence is based on the strong getting stronger by devouring the

*patients*  
↓  
*complacent*  
become  
more  
*dis-empowered*  
&  
*hard to catch*

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*↳ Don't provoke her.*

*↳ stay off her radar*

.,



## Rabbits & The Wolves (continued)

He [Harding] lets go McMurphy's hand and leans back and crosses his legs, takes another long pull off the cigarette. He pulls the cigarette from his thin crack of a smile, and the laugh starts up again-eee-eee-eee, like a nail coming out of a plank.

"Mr. McMurphy ... my friend ... I'm not a chicken, I'm a rabbit. The doctor is a rabbit. Cheswick there is a rabbit. Billy Bibbit is a rabbit. All of us in here are rabbits of varying ages and degrees, hippity-hopping through our Walt Disney world. Oh, don't misunderstand me, we're not in here because we are rabbits-we'd be rabbits wherever we were-we're all in here because we can't adjust to our rabbitism. We need a good strong wolf like the nurse to teach us our place...Not talk me into it, no. I was born a rabbit. Just look at me. I simply need the nurse to make me happy with my role" (60-61).

We're  
all  
powerless  
+  
have  
accepted  
it

to make  
them  
😊  
w/  
"rabbitism"



## Rabbits & The Wolves (continued)

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patients  
+  
Dr.  
They've  
learned  
to  
accept  
their  
"rabbithood"

↳ Nurse is "helping" them.

### Harding "Schools" McMurphy on "The Shock Shop"



"therapy" that's misused + abused to keep patients in line

"The Shock Shop, Mr. McMurphy, is jargon for the EST machine, the Electro Shock Therapy. A device that might be said to do the work of the sleeping pill, the electric chair, and the torture rack. It's a clever little procedure, simple, quick, nearly painless it happens so fast, but no one ever wants another one. Ever... You are strapped to a table, shaped, ironically, like a cross with a crown of electric sparks in place of thorns. You are touched on each side of the head with wires. Zap! Five cents' worth of electricity through the brain and you are jointly administered therapy and a punishment for your hostile go-to-hell behavior, on top of being put out of everyone's way for six hours to three days depending on the individual. Even when you do regain consciousness you are in a state of disorientation for days. You are unable to think coherently. You can't recall things. Enough of these treatments and a man could turn out like Mr. Ellis you see over there against the wall. A drooling, pants-wetting idiot at thirty-five. Or turn into a mindless organism that eats and eliminates and yells 'f\*\*\* the wife,' like Ruckly. Or look at Chief Broom clutching to his namesake there beside you" (64-65).

Christ imagery  
- used when patient fight

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Christ imagery



Reminders of what they could become  
 used to prevent individuality



- Reminder  
of what they could  
turn into

After supposedly 200+ shock treatments, Chief described as "a giant janitor. There's your Vanishing American, a six-foot-eight sweeping machine, scared of its own shadow. That, my friend, is what we can be threatened with - Harding" (65)

passive but  
aware

x treatment  
left him  
"voiceless"  
- lost individuality



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↳ Chief loses his  
\* "voice" / individuality  
- retreats into fog

## "You Have To Do Something!"

McMurphy Encourages Rebellion:

"...you have to do something to show you still got some guts? Don't you see you can't let her take over completely?...the rest are even scared to open up and laugh. You know, that's the first thing that got me about this place, that there wasn't anybody laughing I haven't heard a real laugh since I came through that door, do you know that? Man, when you lose your laugh you lose your *footing*. A man go around lettin' a woman whup him down till he can't laugh any more, and he loses one of the biggest edges he's got on his side. First thing you know he'll begin to think she's tougher than he is and -" (65-66).



lost all enjoyment; too wound up/tense  
 as long as you can laugh, you're OK  
 He encourages them to assert individuality



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- w/o laughter → dead
- so tense that thive forgotten how to laugh
- Nurse has taken away
- negative view of ♀ that try to be little men
- misgynonistic.

## EMASCULATION

### Emasculate - Verb

-Make (a person, idea, or piece of legislation) weaker or less effective.

-Deprive (a man) of his male role or identity

Harding: "...So you see, my friend, it is somewhat as you stated: man has but one truly effective weapon against the juggernaut of modern matriarchy, but it certainly is not laughter. One weapon, and with every passing year is this hip, motivationally research society, more and more people are discovering how to render that weapon useless and conquer those who have hitherto been the conquerors -" (66).

women are taking masculinity from men.

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*sexual violence* ~~of~~ *manhood*

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*More + more, society is emasculating men.*

### Harding Tells McMurphy How to Get By



Harding: "She's powerless unless you do something to honestly deserve the Disturbed Ward or EST. If you're tough enough to keep her from getting to you, she can't do a thing."

*walk a fine line*

McMurphy: "So if I behave myself and don't cuss her out - ... or cuss one of the aides out or tear up jack some way around here, she can't do nothing to me?"

*→ she can't be conquered*

Harding: "Those are the rules we play by. Of course, she always wins, my friend, always. She's impregnable herself, and with the element of time working for her she eventually gets inside everyone. That's why the hospital regards her as its top nurse and grants her so much authority; she's a master of forcing the trembling libido out into the open -"

*→ captive audience + their release is up to her*

*exploits their sexual insecurities*

## Harding Tells McMurphy How to Get By



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*Where's the line?*

McMurphy: "So if I behave myself and don't cuss her out - ... or cuss one of the aides out or tear up jack some way around here, she can't do nothing to me?"

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*She always wins power struggles  
- she can keep them there*



## Place Your Bets!

**McMurphy:** "The hell with that.

what I want to know is am I safe to try to beat her at her own game? If I come on nice as pie to her, whatever else I *in-sinuate*, she aint' gonna get in a tizzy and have me electrocuted?"

**Harding:** "You're safe as long as you keep control. As long as you don't lose your temper and give her actual reason to request the restriction to the Disturbed Ward..."

**McMurphy:** "...Any of your sharpies here willing to take my five bucks that says that I can get the best of that woman - before the week's up - without her getting the best of me? One week, and if I don't have her to where she don't know whether to s\*\*\* or go blind, the bet is yours."

↳ He's going to try to make her lose her cool!



~Andy Warhol

# Conformity vs. Individuality

following a set of rules or guidelines

What purpose does conformity serve in our society?

organization

- prevents violence / conflict

prevents chaos - sets norms - control

What are the dangers of it?

- loss of individual thought

- boring

- abuse of power / uneven power distribution

- loss of identity

What makes some people more likely to conform?

- lack of education → naïveté - don't know better

- passive personalities - fear

What prompts others to rebel against conformity?

awareness

- fed up / anger.

- exposure to something different / new ideas



~Andy Warhol

# Conformity vs. Individuality

organization

What purpose does conformity serve in our society?

- creates order
- Unites people
- controlled outcome

What are the dangers of it?

- Loss of individuality - boring
- loss of creativity - passive

What makes some people more likely to conform?

- peer pressure
- idolization (want to be like others) - fear
- education - lack of knowledge
- lack of confidence

What prompts others to rebel against conformity?

- to form own group → become a leader
- Start new trend/new ideas
- express individuality
- lack of freedom
- fed.



## The Combine

"The Combine" exists in the Chief's mind. It is an organization of hate machines in human form. The organization hates any behavior that does not fit neatly into a narrowly defined social slot. The Combine is always on the lookout for **potential nonconformists**; it installs control mechanisms in these people to keep them in line. It oversees the mental hospital, a factory where the **Combine failures are remade into better-than-new, proper citizens**. In one sense, all of this is in the Chief's mind, evidence of his mental illness, but in another, the Chief's image of the Combine is evidence that he has exceptionally shrewd insight into the real pressures placed on individuals to make them conform to a generalized standard of behavior.



**What organizations in our society "hate" any behavior that does not fit neatly into a narrowly defined social slot? An organization that encourages/enforces conformity over individuality?**

Schools  
Extremist groups  
Political Parties  
Religion

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Religious Fanatics  
 KKK  
 Sororities/Fraternalities  
 Schools  
 Politics

## Pink Floyd - "Another Brick in the Wall"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YR5ApYxkU-U>

Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall" (Part 2) was written about the rigid structure of English boarding schools in the late 1970s. As you watch the following video, write down any parallels to:

### **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest:**

Teachers like Nurse -  
 - enforce control/domination  
 - violence + humiliation + intimidation  
 Combine = Machine - restructuring into  
 something else  
 Chaos when all express  
 individuality.



What's a common topic and/or theme between the video & the novel?

*Routine Control*  
Time- Chief  
71 - 82 Notes  
thinks Nurse controls time -  
speeds it up + slows it down as needed  
\* The Music - Drives McM crazy - too loud, can't think.  
Others don't notice anymore  
→ Prob. so they can't really talk to each other  
Chief's Powers of Observation:  
Keen observations about McM -  
McMurphy's Realization About Chief  
Chief isn't really deaf.

control  
routine  
predictability 71 - 82 Notes

Time- Nurse controls (according to Chief)  
- slows down, speeds up

\* The Music - to soothe?  
loud → patients can't think or talk

Chief's Powers of Observation:

Keen observations - notices how  
McM is "playing" the patients

McMurphy's Realization About Chief

↳ not deaf

## 71 - 82 Notes

*who meds*  
Chief's Dream - Image of hospital as machine more vivid

- hospital is run like a machine
- sees hospital as mechanical slaughterhouse
- Blastic: bleeds rust (Blastic dies in reality)

**The Fog -**

Haven't fogged since MCM

- his escape
- patients' dulled senses/haze
- if fog is clear - Chief has keen observations
- if fog is thick - he's hiding/nervous

w/o meds 71 - 82 Notes

Chief's Dream -

ward as  
mechanical slaughterhouse  
↳ delusional but figuratively accurate  
↳ the hospital is run like a machine  
Blastic - bleeds rust; prophetic b/c Blastic dies

\* The Fog -

\* Haven't fogged since McM's arrival  
↳ retreat/escape/haze they're in  
out of fog → clarity, but you're vulnerable  
fog = dulled senses can't hide  
McM. trying to pull them out of fog

## 83-102 Notes

Chief About McMurphy: *"But the new guy is different, and the Acutes can see it, different from anybody been coming on this ward for the past ten years, different from anybody they ever met outside. He's just as vulnerable, maybe, but the Combine didn't get him."*

How does McMurphy demonstrate non-conformity?

- doesn't wear uniform →  
wearing nothing but towel +  
underneath, white whale boxers

flaunts  
sexuality +

humor to get  
a rise out of Nurse.

Allusion to Moby Dick -  
a man's obsessive  
hunt of a giant whale

↓  
Nurse

- Requests changes in routine:

- open tub room

- TV - world series

- toothbrush time

- sings  
- gambles



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How does McMurphy demonstrate non-conformity?

- Questions Music - Requests change
- Requests other changes
- Stands in front of her w/ whale } Moby Dick  
Boxers } reference
- Questions schedule (toothbrushing)
- Sings loudly
- gambles
- flaunts his sexuality → sexuality + humor  
to disarm her
- laughs/jokes
- Nurse has to hide rage
- brings "smells of freedom" to Chief  
"dust + dirt from the open fields,  
+ sweat + work" (91).

### 83-102 Notes

Chief Recalls His Father:

- Father was negotiating land deals for the tribe
- makes fun of the "white men"

"I forget sometimes what laughter can do" -Chief (86).

-the power of laughter.

Power Struggle Begins (92-101)

Loud Music - "Everybody on the ward can feel that it's started" (96).



Turn ↓ music?

No - Older patients can't hear

McM - Open Up Tub Room

NO - staff shortage

Dr. Spivey

- uses Spivey to get to Nurse

- be friends with him

- does have patients' interest in mind

Carnival

- break up monotony
- fun + laughter

Tub Room

- Spivey thinks it's his idea
- comes up w/ personnel solution
- turn tub room into game room
- it's a win for McM - she can't say No
- Nurse (i) - ~~that~~ mad he brought w/ patients rather than staff mtg

### Power Struggle Begins (92-101)

Loud Music - "Everybody on the ward can feel that it's started" (96).



- he asks
- she says no
- everyone's watching
- suggests Tub Room w/o music

- \* - be friended by MCM
- Dr. Spivey has patients' interest in mind
- Nurse is annoyed that Dr. brought up in front of patients

Carnival

Tub Room

- to break up monotony

- Dr. S comes up w/ solution to personnel problem. So she has to agree



She's lost a little battle here today, but it's a minor battle in a big war that she's been winning and that she'll go on winning. We mustn't let McMurphy get our hopes up... She'll go on winning, just like the Combine, because she has all the power of the Combine behind her... She's got the fog machine switched on, and it's rolling in so fast I can't see a thing but her face, rolling in thicker and thicker, and I feel as hopeless and dead as I felt happy a minute ago... even more hopeless than ever before, on account of I know now there is no real help against her or her Combine. McMurphy can't help any more than I could. Nobody can help. And the more I think about how nothing can be helped, the faster the fog rolls in.

And I'm glad when it gets thick enough you're lost in it and can let go, and be safe again (101).

*she's impregnable*  
*saw a change on horizon*  
*he won't win the war*



*fog comes when he's scared, hopeless - his safety*

*fog = safety - otherwise you're vulnerable*



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in the long run she always wins

And I'm glad when it gets thick enough you're lost in it and can let go, and be safe again (101).



→ Fog gets thicker when nervous - he retreats or hide  
 w/o fog, he's vulnerable  
 - Chief feels powerless



## World Series

101-115

*importance of laughter*  
"He's safe as long as he can laugh. Just once he loses control and shows he's mad...it's because of the patients and something they *didn't* do...[When

asked about the World Series TV watching idea,] the Acutes act when he asks them what they think of the idea. Nobody says a thing. They're all sunk back out of sight in the little pockets of fog. I can barely see them" (104-105).

*no one has courage to stand up to her* → *others are passive/hiding in fog*

\* Cheswick raises his hand, then Scanlon: *hiding in fog*

"He's [Cheswick] pleased to be sitting next to McMurphy, feeling brave like this. It's the first time Cheswick ever had somebody along with him on his lost causes" (105).

↳ *gaining support*



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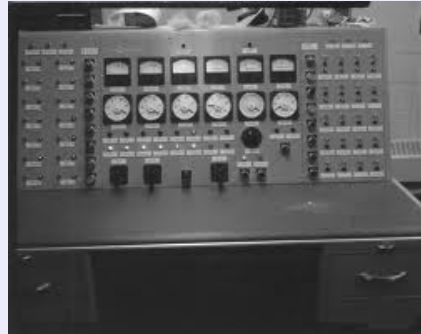
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101-115

## Control Panel



McMurphy bets  
them he can throw  
the control panel through the window:

Doesn't succeed and loses bet, *"But I tried, though... Goddammit, I sure as hell did that much, now, didn't I?"*

- McM knows he can't, but gives sincere effort
- brief moment of hope - at least I tried
- for a moment, they believe in the impossible

101-115

## The Fog

"Nobody complains about the fog. I know why, now: as bad as it is, you can slip back in it and feel safe. That's what McMurphy can't understand, us wanting to be safe. He keeps trying to drag us out of the fog, out in the open where we'd be easy to get at" (114).



Fog = safety  
 → w/o the fog, they're left vulnerable

### Old Rawler

"Cut both \*\*\* off and bled to death, sitting right on the can in the latrine... What makes people so impatient is what I can't figure; all the guy had to do was wait" (115)

↳ Hospital would've eventually taken away his masculinity

115-128 Fog Getting Thicker

- hallucinates about patients
- thinks he AND the other patients are lost in the fog
- doesn't feel anything anymore
- falls asleep during group meeting

→ they do have dulled senses.



Billy Bibbit

pg. 121

- 31 yr old virgin
  - controlling mom
  - scars on wrist
  - cigarette burns
  - target of next therapy session
  - Nurse asks about girlfriend
- abuse by others or self?

## Revote on World Series



"And then off down the slope I see them, other hands coming up out of the fog. It's like...that big red hand of McMurphy's is reaching into the fog and dropping down and dragging the men up by their hands, dragging them blinking into the open. First one, then another, then the next. Right on down the line of Acutes, dragging them out of the fog till there they stand, all twenty of them, raising not just for watching TV, but against the Big Nurse, against her trying to send McMurphy to Disturbed, against the way she's talked and acted and beat them down for years...The nurse can't figure what happened; yesterday, before he tried lifting that panel, there wasn't but four or five men might of voted. But when she talks she don't let it show in her voice how surprised she is" (124). */She can't react*

*rebellion  
gaining  
support*

*empowering  
them*

*he  
inspires  
them  
to  
act!*

Revote on World Series

115-128

(Cont)

- Needs majority to change policy  
 - has all 20 acutes on his side - begs others

CHIEF

"McMurphy's got hidden wires hooked to it, lifting it slow just to get me out of the fog and into the open where I'm fair game. He's doing it, wires...No.

That's not the truth. I lifted it myself" (127).

↳ Doesn't attribute to own individuality at 1st  
 ↳ starting to recognize his own individuality  
 ↳ getting "his voice" back.

The World Series Standoff

• Watches game  
 - she unplugs → they watch blank screen

Nurse to McMurphy: "You're committed, you realize..."

↳ he's under her control - not there by choice, can't check himself out

"If somebody'd of come in and took a look, men watching a blank TV, a fifty-year-old woman hollering and squealing at the back of their heads about discipline and order and recriminations, they'd of thought the whole bunch was crazy as loons" (129).

↳ Insanity not just for the insane/patients  
 - maybe patients aren't defective

1. **Pecking Party** - Group Thinking

*Rabbits & Wolves* pg.60

2. **FOG** = complacency, safety, hopelessness, fear

- McMurphy pulls them out of the fog
- Chief senses own individuality (raises his hand for the vote)
- Chief's mental state improves as fog lifts

3. **Nurse's Weapons of Control**

- Feigned patience
- Plastic Smile
- Insinuation
- Implied threats

Starts to Bring them over to his side:

**Humor & Sexuality** – the patients have been shamed for their sense of sexuality – that is how she dominates them; Nurse plays into their insecurities to gain power over them

- Proposes a vote about the World Series
- Bets that he can make the Nurse lose her composure
- They are all afraid to defy the Nurse, that no one votes except Cheswick
- He bets them that he can lift the control panel and use it to break through the windows to escape – he makes a sincere effort that they all believe it might be possible => offers them hope

NURSE loses it – “Anyone that walked into the room” Insanity isn’t just for the insane – therefore the patients aren’t defective

**CLIMAX:**

**Proposes change in schedule**

*Big Nurse vetoes suggestion b/c it's disruptive*

**He talks to patients about trying; proposes 2<sup>nd</sup> vote; Patients vote w/ him**

*Big Nurse calls for majority rule (chronics can't vote)*

**Bromden votes**

*She closes vote, too late*

**McMurphy turns on set**

*She pulls the plug*

**He sits in front of the blank TV & other men join him**

*She loses it*

**Rawler** – patient in Disturbed who kills himself by cutting off his testicles