



Title: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Author: Ken Kesey

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BOOK RESUME: ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

BOOK SYNOPSIS

In this classic novel, Ken Kesey's hero is Randle Patrick McMurphy, a boisterous, brawling, fun-loving rebel who swaggers into the world of a mental hospital and takes over. A lusty, life-affirming fighter, McMurphy rallies the other patients around him by challenging the dictatorship of Nurse Ratched. He promotes gambling in the ward, smuggles in wine and women, and openly defies the rules at every turn. But this defiance, which starts as a sport, soon develops into a grim struggle, an all-out war between two relentless opponents: Nurse Ratched, backed by the full power of authority, and McMurphy, who has only his own indomitable will. What happens when Nurse Ratched uses her ultimate weapon against McMurphy provides the story's shocking climax.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"A work of genuine literary merit . . . What Mr. Kesey has done in his unusual novel is to transform the plight of a ward of inmates in a mental hospital into a glittering parable of good and evil." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"[A] brilliant first novel . . . a strong, warm story about the nature of human good and evil . . . Kesey has made his book a roar of protest against middlebrow society's Rules and the invisible Rulers who enforce them." —*Time*

"The final triumph of these men at the cost of a terrifying sacrifice should send chills down any reader's back. . . . This novel's scenes have the liveliness of a motion picture." —*The Washington Post*

"An outstanding book . . . [Kesey's] characters are original and real. . . . This is a tirade against the increasing controls over man and his mind, yet the author never gets on a soap box. Nor does he forget that there is a thin line between tragedy and comedy." —*Houston Chronicle*

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Lesson Plan](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- ["How a 16-year-old Jewish high school student is fighting back against book banning in Florida"](#)
- ["The librarian who couldn't take it anymore"](#)

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.