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Reflections:

*A Student Response Journal for...*

*Catch-22*  
*by Joseph Heller*

written by Brian Johnson

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## **T o T h e T e a c h e r**

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

For *Catch-22*, we also have these materials:

*Book*  
*Teaching Unit*

See our catalogue, visit our web site at [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com), or call 1-800-932-4593 for more information.

*Note to teacher: Catch-22 contains some strong sexual content. This is a novel about war, and, in wartime, such activities are commonplace. There is also some profanity, including the play on words about Lt. Scheisskopf's name. Catch-22 also depicts some of the horrors and gore of war in a realistic manner, includes profanity, and shows the military in its most negative light. You may want to consider these elements in deciding if this Response Journal should be used with lower grades or less mature students.*

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## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

# Class Record Sheet

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## Response Sheet

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Section\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**1**

**The Texan**

1. In the beginning of the novel, Captain John Yossarian is in the hospital because he says his liver is sore and he's running a temperature of 101°. Yossarian always has a temperature of 101° and he feels fine. The doctors can't find out what's wrong with his liver so they keep him in the hospital to figure out the problem.

Write a journal entry discussing a time when you used a physical ailment to avoid a particular responsibility or engagement. Was the fact that you misled someone justifiable? Is Yossarian justified in avoiding his bombing missions in the war by feigning illness and staying in the hospital?

**2**

**Clevinger**

2. Clevinger and Yossarian disagree on many things. Consider the two quotes below:
- “There were many principles in which Clevinger believed passionately. He was crazy.”
  - Yossarian is crazy because he has “an unfounded suspicion that people hated him and were conspiring to kill him.”

Respond to Yossarian as Clevinger, defending why it’s rational to believe in things passionately (like right and wrong, good and bad, enemies and allies). You may also choose to respond to Clevinger as Yossarian, explaining why he’s correct in thinking people hate him and are conspiring to kill him.

3. “Dunbar liked Clevinger because Clevinger annoyed him and made the time go slow.”

Dunbar thinks that he is prolonging his life if things go by slowly. So, he’s happy when he’s bored, and he’s happy when he’s miserable because such events make time go by more slowly. Write a paragraph or two, commenting on Dunbar’s theory and explain whether you would choose a short life full of fun or a long life that seemed to drag at times.



**3**

**H a v e r m e y e r**

4. In the beginning of the novel, Yossarian has flown forty-four missions, but Colonel Cathcart raises the number of missions pilots must fly to fifty. As the novel progresses, Yossarian completes more missions, and Colonel Cathcart raises the number he must fly, always keeping the goal just out of reach.

Recall or create a story about a task you've had to complete where the goal always seemed just out of reach, or the end kept getting further away just as you approached it. Describe this experience.

5. Yossarian has a very frustrating conversation with Orr, who lives in the tent with him. Yossarian asks why, as a kid, Orr walked around with crab apples in his cheeks. Orr replies that they were better than horse chestnuts. Orr explains that he'd walk around with rubber balls in his hands in case someone asked why he had crab apples in his cheeks. Then he could hold out his hands to show them he had rubber balls, not crab apples, and they were in his hands, not his cheeks.

Write a conversation (real or fictitious) between two people in which one person is trying to get a simple answer from another, but the responses consistently evade answering the questions, (much like the conversation between Orr and Yossarian). Another example along the same line is the famous "Who's On First?" skit between Abbott and Costello.

**4**

**Doc Daneeka**

6. Colonel Korn devises a rule governing the asking of questions. “Colonel Korn’s rule was a stroke of genius.” In essay form, explain Colonel Korn’s rule governing the asking of questions and explain how it’s an example of a paradox (something which appears to contradict itself).
7. Clevinger considers Dunbar’s theory about a long life, and says, “Maybe a long life does have to be filled with many unpleasant conditions if it’s to seem long.” He continues, “But in that event, who wants one?” Dunbar says he does, because “what else is there?” List as many reasons you can think of explaining why unpleasant conditions may be useful or even positive in a person’s overall lifetime.

**5**

**Chief White Halfoat**

8. Chief White Halfoat is a Native American who tells Yossarian how difficult it is to be treated differently because of race. “Racial prejudice is a terrible thing, Yossarian. It really is. It’s a terrible thing to treat a decent, loyal Indian like a nigger, kike, wop, or spic.”

Do you think the type of hypocrisy exhibited by Chief White Halfout exists today? Write an essay expressing your view. Do you believe people of a particular race, sex, religion, or group expect to be treated a certain way yet fail to extend that same courtesy to others, or do you think they treat others the way they hope to be treated? Be specific and use examples.

9. In this chapter, we learn what “Catch-22” truly is. Imagine you must explain this concept to a group of people. Write a speech explaining, in your own words, what Catch-22 is, and why you think it has become part of our American vocabulary.

## 6

### **Hungry Joe**

10. Hungry Joe's main motivation is to get photos of naked girls. He tells the girls that he is a important photographer, which incidentally he was in civilian life, and he finds girls to pose any way he wants. Maddeningly for him, the pictures never come out. Ironically, Hungry Joe himself is far from attractive, at least in the way Heller describes him. Based on the description, list as many adjectives as you can describing Hungry Joe.
11. Explain how one of the following qualifies as a "Catch-22":
  - Hungry Joe crumbled promptly into ruin every time he finished another tour of duty because the stress of waiting for orders was too much to bear.
  - Captain Flume slept like a log, only dreamed he was awake, and had to go to sleep after awakening out of pure exhaustion.
  - Colonel Cathcart believes his men are ten missions better than any other outfit. If one of his men doesn't share this belief, he can "get the hell out." In order to get out, the man who doesn't share this belief must fly ten extra missions.

In addition, write a brief paragraph about a "Catch-22" of your own.

## 7

### **McWatt**

12. In this chapter, we learn that Milo Minderbinder is an enterprising cook in the mess hall, who trusts Yossarian with every secret (except where he hides his money). Throughout the book, Milo will share the details of his often off-the-wall schemes.

Do you have a friend you would share absolutely anything with, from the embarrassing to the dishonest or private? Write an anonymous letter to this person defining the things that separates him or her from the rest of the good friends and family in your life.

**8**

**Lieutenant Scheisskopf**

(No prompts)

**9**

**Major Major Major Major**

13. “All his life, Major Major had longed for but one thing, to be absorbed.” Unfortunately for Major Major, even though he has always done what he’s told, he never seems to fit in or be “one of the guys.”

Written in the form of a short story, share or create an experience from the present or from your past when you had the same desire as Major Major: you wanted to fit in and didn’t feel like you did.

14. Based on what you already know, make a set of Major Major’s guidelines for working in his office, to be followed by Sergeant Towser and any visitors. Entitle it “*Major Major’s Office Rules.*”

**10**

**Wintergreen**

15. Ex P.F.C. Wintergreen frequently goes AWOL (absent without official leave). Doing so indirectly and ironically results in a medal. In a numbered list, write down the sequence of events beginning with “WINTERGREEN GOES AWOL” and ending with “WINTERGREEN GETS A MEDAL.”

**11**

**Captain Black**

(No prompts)

**12**

**Bologna**

16. In a paragraph, explain clearly how General Peckam receives a medal for the capture of Bologna by the men of Pianosa, even though they never left on the mission. Include every person in the chain of command, starting with Sergeant Knight, progressing to Yossarian, and ending finally with General Peckam.
17. Yossarian and Clevinger have a conversation in this chapter that highlights some very basic and critical viewpoints on the question of whether anything is worth more than the individual. Write an essay in which you side with Clevinger on the issue or with Yossarian. Consider the following dialogue between the two before choosing a position:

**Yossarian:** "You are talking about winning the war, and I am talking about...keeping alive."

**Clevinger:** "Exactly. And which do you think is more important?"

**Yossarian:** "To whom? Open your eyes, Clevinger. It doesn't make a damn bit of difference who wins the war to someone who's dead."

**Clevinger:** "Congratulations! I can't think of another attitude that could be depended upon to give greater comfort to the enemy."

**Yossarian:** "The enemy is anybody who's going to get you killed, no matter which side he's on."

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*Response Journal*

18. We know already that Hungry Joe is under a great deal of stress when he is NOT flying missions because he's dreading the next assignment. The other soldiers hear him screaming in his sleep.

Write as vividly as you can about one of Hungry Joe's dreams. Write from his point of view. You may want to begin with this:

You: "Last night I had a terrible nightmare..."

**13**

**Major — De Coverley**

19. The action of the book takes place in various places so far—some places are fictional; other places are real. Do a little research to find out where these places are (if they exist at all), write it down, and explain in a sentence or two each what activity occurs in the place.
- Pianosa
  - Bologna
  - Rome
  - Sicily
  - Malta
  - Ferrara

**14**

**Kid Sampson**

(No prompts)

**15: Plitchard & Wren**

20. In this chapter, we see a very raw, emotional side of Yossarian. He isn't being sarcastic or clever, but instead is fearful and demonstrative. Though Yossarian has seemed concerned only with himself, list as many examples as you can from the chapter that Yossarian cares about more than just himself.

**16**

**Luciana**

21. There have been many descriptions of women and their role with the men of the story. To this point, the women in the story seem to be limited in the purpose they serve.

Write a letter to the author, Joseph Heller, in which you comment on his treatment of women in these chapters; use at least four quotes from the book to support your opinion. You might also consider the fact that the book has been banned in many schools.

22. Yossarian is often “falling in love” with various women throughout the novel. He wishes he were with this woman, then misses a different girl terribly, and then falls in love again with yet another. Yossarian often falls for women who don’t care about him and will never think of him again. In addition, it’s as if Yossarian wants what he cannot have. Consider how he tears up Luciana’s phone number then immediately longs for her and tries to find her.

Many men live and date as Yossarian does. In a magazine geared towards men, write an article discussing this topic. Do men like Yossarian really care about these women? Are these men interested in finding a serious relationship at all? Why or why not? Use this article to express your opinion. Be sure to create a clever title for your article.



17

**The Soldier in White**

23. This chapter begins with claims that people are better off being in the hospital than healthy and free of the hospital.

Make two columns, one for “*In the Hospital*,” and one for “*Outside the Hospital*,” and describe things that happen in each environment. In one paragraph, show how landing in the hospital is or is not preferable. Many examples are provided within this chapter.

24. “There just doesn’t seem to be any logic to this system of rewards and punishment.” This theme is explained further with examples following this line, and it reminds Yossarian of a conversation he had with Clevinger. In this conversation, Clevinger claims that things happen to us because of our actions. In essence, we deserve what comes to us. Yossarian, however, claims that there is no justice. He believes things don’t happen for a reason or because we deserve them.

In a speech directed to your class, take either Clevinger’s side or Yossarian’s side; use at least two quotes from this chapter that will help in illustrating that viewpoint.

**18**

**The Soldier Who Saw  
Everything Twice**

25. In your own words, continue the following conversation between Yossarian and Lieutenant Scheisskopf's wife until one of them wins the argument. Write at least five comments for each person.

Lieutenant Scheisskopf's wife: "Be thankful you're healthy."

Yossarian: "Be bitter you're not going to stay that way."

Lieutenant Scheisskopf's wife: "Be glad you're even alive."

Yossarian: "Be *furious* you're going to die."

Lieutenant Scheisskopf's wife: "Things could be much worse."

Yossarian: "Things could be a hell of a lot better."

Lieutenant Scheisskopf's wife:

**19**

**Colonel Cathcart**

26. This chapter focuses on the personality of Colonel Cathcart, the man responsible for continually raising the number of missions the men have to fly as soon as Yossarian approaches the designated number.

Imagine you too are working under Colonel Cathcart. In your journal, describe what kind of a person the Colonel is. Compare his aspirations in the military to his belief in religion.

## 20

### Corporal Whitcomb

27. The chaplain has just met with Colonel Cathcart and now encounters Colonel Korn. The chaplain hates himself because he feels he has exhibited cowardice in the face of stronger personalities. This feeling continues through the chapter when the chaplain converses with Corporal Whitcomb, who is more aggressive than the chaplain.

Write an essay about a time in your past when you wanted to stick up for what you thought was right, but you never came out to make that stand because you felt intimidated or uncomfortable.

## 21

### General Dreedle

28. Colonel Cathcart makes a chart of “Black Eyes!!!” and “Feathers in My Cap!!!!” Make the same chart Colonel Cathcart does, and record the things he lists under the proper column. Beside each item, write a short explanation of the situation or event to which Cathcart is referring. Feel free to add to the list as the chapter progresses (for example, “Milo” and “*having group bombed by Milo’s planes*”).
29. Within this chapter, there is an episode where Yossarian swoons over General Dreedle’s nurse. General Dreedle keeps her around to drive his son-in-law, Colonel Moodus, crazy.

Imagine you are General Dreedle; write a letter to Colonel Moodus explaining why you hate him. Include your reasons for torturing him on a daily basis.

**22**

**Milo the Mayor**

30. Dobbs hatches a rather basic plot to murder Colonel Cathcart because he keeps raising the number of missions. Dobbs asks Yossarian to be his accomplice, to which Yossarian replies “Nothing would please me more than to have the son of a bitch break his neck or get killed in a crash or to find out that someone else had shot him to death. But I don’t think I could kill him.”

Take the perspective of Yossarian, and since you can’t murder Cathcart, write the colonel a persuasive letter asking him to stop increasing the number of missions for the men. Be sure to include good reasons why he should take your advice.

31. Finally, an explanation is given telling how Milo buys eggs for seven cents apiece, sells them for five cents apiece, and makes a profit. Milo trusts Yossarian, and, therefore, explains the scheme. Write a clear, concise summary of how Milo pulls off his scheme. Be careful – this may be harder than it seems.
32. Transcribe all the information you can collect on Milo Minderbinder’s work within the Syndicate. From doing so, you will be able to clarify what titles Milo has, the place where he is in high standing, the products he trades, and where his items are sold. You should be able to come up with at least TEN rows. Use this to start:

MILO’S BUSINESS			
<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>SOLD IN</u>
Assistant Governor General	Malta	artichokes	Naples

## 23

### **Nately's Old Man**

33. Aarfy recalls a situation in which he “tricked these two dumb high school girls” into engaging in sexual behavior by threatening to call their parents. In the form of a short story, write about a time when you or someone your age was pressured into doing something he or she didn’t want to do. How did it happen? Was it a poor choice or a good choice? Did it have consequences? Write the story.
34. In this chapter, many details reveal the setting of this novel. Surprisingly, though the book takes place during World War II, very little time is spent on historical details or time and place. Write down details from the chapter that help in identifying the setting.
35. Nately’s family is an upper-class family, well educated and comes from “old money.” Nately’s father plans his son’s life out for him to some degree, and Nately does what his family dictates. Nately’s father, in fact, is the one who had the idea for Nately to join the Air Corps, where he could train safely. As we know, however, he ends up in danger in World War II alongside Yossarian.

Have you ever experienced pressure from your family to do certain things or be a certain way? In a few paragraphs, explain the ways in which you think you may follow the lead of your family members.

## 24

### Milo

36. "...one day Milo contracted with the American military authorities to bomb the German-held highway bridge at Orvieto and with the German military authorities to defend the highway bridge at Orvieto with anti-aircraft fire against his own attack." This ironic scenario shows that, to Milo, everything is simply business. He takes no sides and doesn't care about winning or about good and evil. All he cares about is money and what's good for the syndicate.

As a newspaper editor, choose a controversial issue (child labor, false advertising, weapons manufacturing, medical procedures, or anything else where ethical choices could come into play, and money ceases to be the only issue). Do you believe money ceases to matter in these situations or is morality is more important? Why?

37. Milo buys Egypt's entire cotton crop. He has no idea how he is going to sell it, use it, or get rid of it—he's really in a bind. His best idea so far is to cover the cotton in chocolate and try to pawn it off as cotton candy. On a sheet of paper, brainstorm any ideas you can come up with to assist Milo in easily selling or making use of an entire country's cotton crop.
38. Based on what you know up to this point, describe the event that lands Yossarian naked, in a tree, at a cemetery. In a journal entry, describe what has happened to make him do this. Finally, do you think that being naked in a tree, near a funeral, is a sign that he is crazy or is this an understandable response to the absurdity of the military? Explain your reasoning.

## 25

### The Chaplain

39. Chaplain Albert Taylor Tappman is a handsome man with a clear sense of the difference between right and wrong. He helps soldiers in distress during the war. He has a very attractive wife in her early thirties and three blue-eyed children. Even though he appears to lead a happy life, here are his thoughts:

“He had resigned himself to failure....He was just not equipped to excel...Why couldn't anybody understand that he was not really a freak but a normal, lonely adult trying to lead a normal, lonely adult life? The chaplain loved his wife and children with such tameless intensity...he was tormented inexorably by morbid fantasies involving them [in] hideous omens of illness and accident.”

Why do you think the chaplain seems to have everything going for him, yet has these unhappy, miserable thoughts about himself and his life? From Chaplain Tappman's perspective, write a monologue explaining why he feels this way about his life. Perhaps there are events from his childhood or during his young adult life which make him feel so negatively. Use your imagination as well as your knowledge of this character's personality.

40. This chapter takes place in 1944. After some research, write a page in whatever format you choose on the important events going on in the war in Europe in 1944. The book focuses on the Americans as the characters and the Germans as the enemy, but feel free to include European events involving other members of the Axis and the Allies.

## 26

### Aarfy

41. Heller is attempting to make a point by describing the events among of the patients in the hospital. First, the men in the hospital take great interest in the Soldier in White. The soldier's bandaged from head to toe and can't communicate. The other men speculate that there may be no one in there, or they think he's in there but dead. Maybe he's just not who his tag says. Yossarian takes the soldier's place by bandaging himself up when a family comes to visit a dying soldier—nobody knows the difference. In this chapter, soldiers in the hospital are jumping from bed to bed and "becoming" other patients: "Yossarian...became Warrant Officer Homer Lumley, who felt like vomiting and was covered suddenly with a clammy sweat."

Based on the idea that people can lose or change their identities in this hospital come up with the message Heller is possibly implying. Record your opinion in a journal entry.

## 27

### Nurse Duckett

42. Finally, Yossarian is labeled "crazy" by an expert, but the results are not expected. Write a summary of the story of the psychiatrist, Major Sanderson, and his time with Yossarian. Why are they meeting, what do we learn about the two of them, and what is the end result?

## 28

### Dobbs

43. Within this chapter is a catalogue of Orr's abilities and experiences. Make a list entitled "*Orr's Traits*" and write down every one you can identify, from war experience to general skills. This list will be very important in foreshadowing and understanding the ending. (Once you have finished the book, explain how the list foreshadows the end of the book.)



## 29

### Peckem

44. General Peckem is a man who puts a great deal of stress on trivialities. He is attentive to vocabulary and usage. Answer the following questions regarding Peckem's verbal particulars and define some of his preferred words:
- Why didn't he write "memorandums"?
  - Data never "was" obtained. Why?
  - Speech wasn't "verbal" but "oral." Why?
  - Define: turgid, ambiguous, stilted, deplorable, stringent and incumbent.
45. Peckem, delighted with his cultural allusions, describes himself as "Fortinbras, in the play *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare, who just keeps circling and circling around the action until everything falls apart, and then strolls in at the end to pick up all the pieces for himself."

Research the character of Fortinbras and write a summary of his role in *Hamlet* (at the end of the play). Conclude with an explanation of how Fortinbras' character is similar to General Peckam.

46. General Peckem reveals that he only recently invented the term "bomb patterns." He's amused by the fact that some officers are so intent on the look of the bombing patterns that they aren't concerned about whether the bombs hit the targets.

In a journal entry, recall a situation when the presentation of something somehow became more important than its practical usage. For example, parts of wedding cakes often aren't edible.

**30**

**Dunbar**

47. In the beginning of the chapter, Dunbar, Dobbs, and Yossarian in their respective missions do things either out of the ordinary, or directly against the orders of their superiors. In fact, Heller says Dobbs "...really did go nuts right there in the plane..." and McWatt says of Yossarian: "I didn't realize you got it so bad."

Research the topic of Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome and present a one-page paper explaining some details of it. Conclude whether you believe the behavior of some of the book's characters indicates that they suffer from this disorder.

48. McWatt is known for "buzzing" tents and generally making a show of his ability to fly dangerously close to the ground. First, describe what happens to Kid Sampson and McWatt in this chapter. Then, in a one-page review, explain whether you think this book is a comedic book, a serious book, or both. Then, explain why.

**31**

**Mrs. Daneeka**

49. In a more comedic vein, Doc Daneeka ceases to exist because that's what the records show. Two enlisted men address Doc Daneeka, one of them saying, "It's true sir. The records show that you went up in McWatt's plane to collect some flight time. You didn't come down in a parachute, so you must have been killed in the crash." Daneeka responds, "Have you both gone crazy?" In one paragraph, use the example of Doc Daneeka's death to describe a theme you see Heller making regarding the power of bureaucracy.
50. Make a list of the sequence of events that ultimately leads to Mrs. Daneeka being rich and living somewhere in Lansing, Michigan. Making this list regarding the latest absurd sequence of events may also help in writing about the prior prompt.

## 32

### **Yo-Yo's Roomies**

51. Heller is very descriptive as he paints a picture of the beach that used to be a delightful place for the men but is now a place of horror and sadness: "There was stinging rain and dull, chilling fog, and the men flew at week-long intervals, whenever the weather cleared. At night the wind moaned. The gnarled and stunted tree trunks creaked and groaned and forced Yossarian's thoughts each morning, even before he was fully awake, back on Kid Sampson's skinny legs bloating and decaying, as systematically as a ticking clock, in the icy rain and wet sand all through the blind, cold, gusty October nights."

Think of a place that has made a clear impression on you at some point in your life. In your journal, describe the place using the clearest descriptive imagery you can.

52. Read the description of the four 21-year-old men who become Yossarian's new "roommates." They are the replacements for Orr and McWatt, who have disappeared or died, and Heller portrays them very differently from men like Yossarian, Orr, Daneeka, the chaplain, and so on.

Write a few paragraphs about these new replacements. How do they differ from the men we've focused on so far, besides the fact that they are younger than Yossarian, who is twenty-eight. Finally, why are they so different?

## 33

### **Nately's Whore**

(No Prompts)

## **34**

### **Thanksgiving**

53. During a rowdy Thanksgiving party, Yossarian is the victim of a joke that scares him into a rage. He's startled to the point of violence against his friends when sharp bursts of machine gun fire and calls of "Happy New Year!" wake him up.

Write a letter to Yossarian recalling a time when an event caused you or someone else to react with irrational emotion. What was the incident and how was the reaction less than logical?

## **35**

### **Milo the Militant**

54. Explain the series of events that lead from Milo asking to fly missions like the other men to him continuing with the syndicate and still getting credit for flying the missions other men are flying in his name. Write a speech to the rest of the men in which you determine whether Milo designed it this way or it was just his good fortune.

## **36**

### **The Cellar**

56. Three officers, suspicious of the chaplain, take him into a cellar to question him. One question they ask him is "are there atheists in foxholes?" This question refers to a common cliché regarding war — "there are no atheists in foxholes." The idea behind this saying is that people are more likely to believe in or find God if they are in great danger or need help. In an opinion column for your local newspaper, write an article dealing with this topic. Do you believe this? Explain why or why not. Be sure to create a catchy headline.

**37**

**General Scheisskopf**

(No Prompts)

**38**

**Kid Sister**

57. Who appears outside the men's room, then later on Pianosa, and even back in Rome, waiting to murder Yossarian? Come up with a possible explanation of why this person seems so obsessed with killing Yossarian. Explain your theory in two paragraphs.

**39**

**The Eternal City**

58. Unlike the rest of the book, this chapter becomes very serious. Yossarian wanders through Rome destroyed by war. Heller may have named this chapter "The Eternal City" to suggest that this demolished city also represents the fate of the world.

Choose One Prompt:

You are directing the play for this book. Using the sights Yossarian sees, write out the stage directions setting the scene.

Or...

Create a dialogue between two characters discussing this annihilated city (in essence, the world). Does either character find this city redeemable; will the world be able to recover from the devastation? The characters should have opposing views to make the conversation interesting and dramatic.

**40**

**Catch - 22**

59. Colonel Cathcart finally says what Yossarian has been longing to hear throughout the book: Yossarian is going home. There is a catch, however. “ ‘Catch-22?’ inquired Yossarian. ‘Of course,’ Colonel Korn answered pleasantly. ‘After all, we can’t simply send you home for refusing to fly more missions.’ ”

Describe the deal Yossarian is offered. As a close friend, write Yossarian a letter taking a stance on whether he should accept or decline the offer. Should Yossarian go home or face the court martial?

**41**

**Snowden**

59. Yossarian cries for all his dead friends and thinks of Snowden, the man who died in the rear section of his plane. “ ‘I’m cold,’ Snowden said in a frail, childlike voice.” Suppose Snowden is a symbol. Yossarian tries desperately to dress Snowden’s leg wounds and comes to realize that the wounds are too horrific to even stomach once they are discovered. Write an essay explaining what you think Snowden represents as he dies in the plane.

## 42

### Yossarian

60. Major Danby advises Yossarian to “look at the big picture.” Yossarian shakes his head and says “When I look up, I see people cashing in. I don’t see heaven or saints or angels. I see people cashing in on every decent impulse and every human tragedy.”

Based on this bleak viewpoint of humanity, write an article for *Teacher’s Perspective* magazine. Entitle your article “*High Schoolers Are Ready for Catch-22*” or “*High School Students Can’t Handle the Catch.*” Be sure to include examples from the text to support your view.

61. The final surprise of the book adds a hint of hope; Orr has turned up alive in Sweden. Finally, Orr makes sense to Yossarian. The book ends with Yossarian deciding to try to get to Rome and following Orr’s example by rowing to Sweden. Write at least a one-page conclusion. Briefly, tell the story of Yossarian’s fate.

### WRAP - UP

62. Even though the book is a satire and somewhat absurd, what about your own life would you appreciate more after seeing what the men in *Catch-22* are forced to endure during war? In your journal, explain your answer.
63. Write an editorial for the newspaper taking a stance on the issue of whether going to war is justifiable. Are there causes worth dying or killing for? Entitle your editorial “*The Case For War*” OR “*The Case Against War.*”
64. Now that you have completed the novel, list three main ideas or themes you believe Heller is relaying through his story of Yossarian in World War II. Support your thoughts with evidence from the text.

## Test

1. The events of *Catch-22* are based
  - a. in Warsaw.
  - b. in the Philippines.
  - c. in Pianosa.
  - d. in Vietnam.
2. Yossarian, the main character, is
  - a. a sergeant in the army.
  - b. a lieutenant in the navy.
  - c. a warrant officer in the marines.
  - d. a captain in the air force.
3. Yossarian's chief antagonist throughout the novel is
  - a. Colonel Cathcart.
  - b. General Dreedle.
  - c. Chaplain Tappman.
  - d. General Peckam.
4. *Catch-22* takes place during
  - a. World War I.
  - b. World War II.
  - c. The Vietnam War.
  - d. The Cold War.
5. Milo Minderbinder is constantly looking to profit through his ever-growing creation, the
  - a. syndicate.
  - b. business.
  - c. factory.
  - d. operation.



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*Catch-22*

6. Throughout the novel, Yossarian's overriding concern is
  - a. victory for his country.
  - b. that justice prevails.
  - c. that he survives.
  - d. protecting the innocent.
7. The best explanation of "catch-22" is that it is
  - a. a situation in which only the strong survive.
  - b. any task in which the objective is not met.
  - c. a law that prevents freedom.
  - d. circular reasoning that prevents a positive solution.
8. The woman Nately is in love with
  - a. kills him.
  - b. falls in love with him before he dies.
  - c. falls in love with Yossarian.
  - d. has a twin sister who confuses matters.
9. One of Orr's odd behaviors is that he often
  - a. sleeps in the woods.
  - b. arrives at the parades naked.
  - c. hits people with his shoes.
  - d. keeps crabapples in his cheeks.
10. The name of the dead man in Yossarian's tent, who actually isn't there, is
  - a. Aarfy.
  - b. Doc.
  - c. Dobbs
  - d. Mudd.

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*Response Journal*

11. According to the records, who dies with McWatt when McWatt commits suicide?
  - a. Doc Daneeka.
  - b. Corporal Whitcomb.
  - c. Kid Sampson.
  - d. Wintergreen.
12. The character whose death haunts Yossarian throughout the book is
  - a. Hungry Joe.
  - b. Orr.
  - c. Snowden.
  - d. Chief White Halfoat.
13. Near the end of the novel, the hellish city Yossarian wanders in while seeing abominations of humanity is
  - a. Munich.
  - b. Rome.
  - c. Bologna.
  - d. Palermo.
14. The deal Yossarian is offered at the end involves him
  - a. flying 85 missions.
  - b. supporting the generals.
  - c. getting a promotion.
  - d. accepting a dishonorable discharge.
15. *Catch-22* ends with Yossarian planning to escape to
  - a. Sweden.
  - b. Australia.
  - c. Greenland.
  - d. Switzerland.

---

*C a t c h - 2 2*

16. Major Sanderson thinks that Yossarian should be “taken outside and shot” for his subversive ideas. Who else has this reaction to subversion?
  - a. General Dreedle
  - b. General Peckem
  - c. Captain Black
  - d. Ex-PFC Wintergreen
17. What word is repeated to give Orr an unusual, unnerving aura?
  - a. giggling
  - b. simpleton
  - c. gnome
  - d. eccentric
18. Why does Nurse Duckett refuse to marry Yossarian?
  - a. He is too paranoid to be stable.
  - b. He is not going to achieve the wealth that a doctor could.
  - c. She cannot handle the emotional stress of commitment to a soldier.
  - d. Nurse Cramer thinks that Yossarian isn’t good enough for Nurse Duckett.
19. What is the effect of the vendetta Nately’s whore has against Yossarian?
  - a. It reminds readers of the primarily male responsibility for war.
  - b. It reminds readers of Yossarian’s responsibility to keep his convictions.
  - c. It reminds readers of the pain of lost love.
  - d. It reminds readers of the harsh nature of guerrilla warfare.
20. Officially, what happened to Yossarian outside Colonel Cathcart’s office?
  - a. He was stabbed by an innocent girl involved in black-market smuggling.
  - b. He was attacked by Nately’s father.
  - c. He was waylaid by other angry pilots in his squadron.
  - d. He frightened off a Nazi assassin.

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*Notes*

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*Catch-22*

Test  
Student Answer Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_\_\_

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*Catch-22*

Test  
Answer Key

1. \_\_C\_\_

11. \_\_A\_\_

2. \_\_D\_\_

12. \_\_C\_\_

3. \_\_A\_\_

13. \_\_B\_\_

4. \_\_B\_\_

14. \_\_B\_\_

5. \_\_A\_\_

15. \_\_A\_\_

6. \_\_C\_\_

16. \_\_A\_\_

7. \_\_D\_\_

17. \_\_A\_\_

8. \_\_B\_\_

18. \_\_B\_\_

9. \_\_D\_\_

19. \_\_B\_\_

10. \_\_D\_\_

20. \_\_D\_\_

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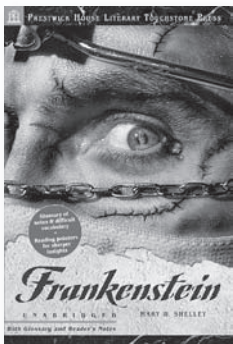
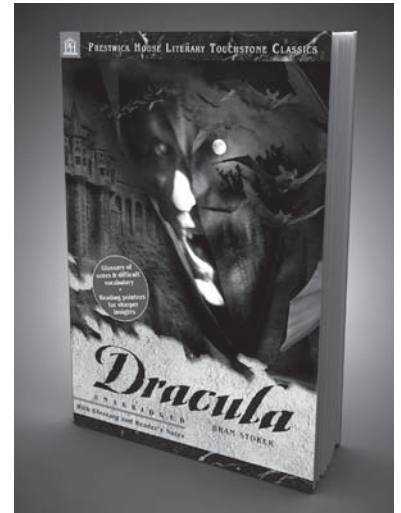
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