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INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PACKET/TEACHING UNIT

CATCH - 22

J O S E P H H E L L E R



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Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Catch-22

by Joseph Heller

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CATCH-22

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. understand and explain the role of sarcasm and irony in creating satire
2. discuss what each of the following might symbolize or represent in the story:
 - The Solder in White
 - The Eternal City
 - Deja Vu
 - The Syndicate (M&M Enterprises)
 - Catch-22
3. analyze the differences between the public and private aspects of religion
4. discuss the following themes in this story:
 - The most basic force motivating most people is self-interest
 - Relationships based on self-gratification will ultimately be unsatisfying
 - Institutions will be as cruel as they need to be to survive
 - In a large society, the interests of the individual must be sacrificed for the greater good
5. identify and explain the ways that alliteration and oxymoron are combined to heighten the sense of paradox
6. identify examples of twisted dialogue and dry humor, and relate these examples to the author's style
7. discuss the relationship between the physical and emotional characteristics of characters in the novel
8. cite incidents from the story to illustrate the following theme: People can be fooled into following any sort of dogma as long as they are motivated by fear or by material gain
9. point out examples of allusions in the story and comment on how they enhance the reader's understanding of the narrator's ideas
10. define and find examples of numerous literary devices including metaphor, simile, alliteration, juxtaposition, oxymoron, polysyndeton, personification, etc.
11. discuss how point of view shifts within the third-person narrative

12. discuss whether or not this novel accurately reflects conditions in the Air Force during World War II
13. point out examples of foreshadowing and comment on how they add interest to the story
14. give examples of the uses of diction in the story to create and enhance humor
15. follow the non-linear plot and understand how it contributes to the overall unreality of the book

Note to teachers: Catch-22 contains the narration of some fairly strong sexual content. There are numerous references to nudity, prostitution, and promiscuous sex. 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; Scheisskopf is the German word for "shit-head." 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 the novel should be taught to lower grades or less mature students.

All page references come from the Simon & Schuster edition of *Catch-22*, copyright 1989.

CATCH-22

Terms and Definitions

Foreshadowing – the use of hints or clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense.

Inference—the act of drawing a conclusion that is not actually stated. For example, in *The Pigman* from the fact that John and Lorraine are writing a memorial epic about the incident with the Pigman, we may infer that the Pigman is now dead and the incident is important to them.

Polysyndeton – the repetition of conjunctions for stylistic effect. Example: In the Bible, the word “and” as part of the phrase, “and God saw that it was good,” keeps the flow of the verses going.

Metaphor—a comparison of two things that are basically dissimilar but are brought together in order to create a sharp image. Example: The moon, a haunting lantern, shone through the clouds.

Proverb—a short saying that states a basic truth about life. Example: He who hesitates is lost.

Reliable and Unreliable narrator—Reliable narrators are those whose accounts we trust, whereas unreliable narrators may be sick, ill-informed, deliberately or innocently misleading, or incapable of understanding what is happening. Most third-person narrators are trustworthy, but first-person narration is frequently unreliable, due to the narrator’s closeness to the story. Examples: Anne Frank, even though she is a first-person narrator, tells her story in an accurate manner; what she says can be believed. Chief Bromden, the narrator of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, is delusional; therefore, the reader must question whether what he says is true.

Simile—a comparison between two different things using either *like* or *as*. Example: I am as hungry as a horse.

Symbol—an object, person, or place that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, usually an idea or concept; some concrete thing which represents an abstraction. Example: The sea could be symbolic for “the unknown;” since the sea is something which is physical and can be seen by the reader, but has elements which can not be understood, it can be used *symbolically* to stand for the abstraction of “mystery,” “obscurity,” or “the unknown.”

Antithesis—a rhetorical device that emphasizes opposites. Example: In 1984, the government decrees, “War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength.”

Theme—the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Sometimes theme is easy to see, but, at other times, it may be more difficult. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out. It is a universal statement about humanity, rather than a simple statement dealing with plot or characters in the story. Themes are generally hinted at through different devices: a phrase or quotation that introduces the novel, a recurring element in the book, or an observation made that is reinforced through plot, dialogue, or characters. It must be emphasized that not all works of literature have themes in them.

In a story about a man who is diagnosed with cancer and, through medicine and will-power, returns to his former occupation, the theme might be: “real courage is demonstrated through internal bravery and perseverance.” In a poem about a flower that grows, blooms, and dies, the theme might be: “youth fades and death comes to all.”

Irony – a subtle, sometimes humorous perception of inconsistency in which the significance of a statement or event is changed by its content. For example: the firehouse burned down.

- *Dramatic irony*—the audience knows more about a character’s situation than the character does, foreseeing an outcome contrary from the character’s expectations. The character’s statements have one meaning for the character and a different meaning to the reader, who knows more than the character.
- *Structural irony*—a naïve hero whose view of the world differs from the author’s and reader’s. Structural irony flatters the reader’s intelligence at the expense of the hero.
- *Verbal irony*—a discrepancy between what is said and what is really meant; sarcasm.

Example: calling a stupid man smart.

Idiom – a phrase or expression which means something different from what the words actually say. Example: We’ll play it by ear.

Personification—a figure of speech in which an object or animal is given human characteristics. Example: The pig laughed all the way to the barn.

Metaphor—a comparison of two things that are basically dissimilar but are brought together in order to create a sharp image. Example: The moon, a haunting lantern, shone through the clouds.

Allusion—a reference to a person, place, poem, book, or movie outside of the story that the author expects the reader will recognize.

Litotes - a conscious understatement that achieves the opposite effect of the words themselves. Example: I like money a little.

Alliteration - the repetition of sounds at the beginning of words. Example: **M**ore **M**ischief and **M**erriment.

Juxtaposition - the placement of two dissimilar items, people, thoughts, places, etc., next to one another to emphasize the differences or heighten the similarities. **Example:** In *The Pearl*, the main character instinctively touches the valuable pearl and his knife at the same time.

Objective correlative - the external manifestation of a person's state of mind, which hints at or mimics the character's thoughts, allowing the reader to view the internal from more than one perspective. **Example:** Winston Smith, in *1984*, has an ulcer on his leg, which represents both his suffering because of the State and his internal infections, as viewed by the State.

Oxymoron - a term or phrase that is apparently self-contradictory. **Examples:** In *Hamlet*, Claudius says, "With mirth in funeral, and with dirge in marriage"; a plastic glass; "the living dead."

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Test

Multiple Choice

1. Yossarian's job while in the hospital at the beginning of the book is to
 - A. generate secret messages for the communications department.
 - B. censor letters written by the enlisted men.
 - C. assemble rations kits for the flight crews.
 - D. proofread memoranda sent out by Group Headquarters.
2. Clevinger's comparison of Yossarian to Raskolnikov is an example of
 - A. irony.
 - B. alliteration.
 - C. allusion.
 - D. juxtaposition.
3. Colonel Cargill's order that the officers in the group show enthusiasm for the USO show is an example of
 - A. oxymoron.
 - B. juxtaposition.
 - C. paradox.
 - D. personification.
4. According to Dunbar, what increases a person's age?
 - A. One's proximity to death
 - B. One's maturity or level of experience
 - C. The time one spends doing useless activities
 - D. None of the above
5. Why did Doc Daneeka not have to enter the war until after most of the other doctors in his community?
 - A. The community needed one doctor to handle the caseload left by the other doctors.
 - B. Doc Daneeka was older than the soldiers taken in the first round of the draft.
 - C. Doc Daneeka's eyesight was too poor for him to be acceptable to the military.
 - D. Doc Daneeka falsified medical reports about himself and sent them to the draft board.
6. What object is used to show the potential silliness of Milo's syndicate in Chapter 7?
 - A. Yossarian's free fruit
 - B. McWatt's stolen bedsheet
 - C. Doc Daneeka's medical supplies
 - D. Hungry Joe's black camera

7. The comparison of Major Major's sergeant to Saul on page 96 is an example of
 - A. satire.
 - B. juxtaposition.
 - C. alliteration.
 - D. allusion.
8. What unusual course of action does Major Major take after becoming squadron commander?
 - A. He makes all the soldiers march, despite the fact that they are in active combat.
 - B. He tries to make the soldiers eat chocolate-covered cotton to save money.
 - C. He decides to become a recluse in his own squadron.
 - D. He starts to play basketball with the men.
9. What is Captain Black's primary purpose for the Glorious Loyalty Oath Crusade?
 - A. To get revenge on Major Major for getting promoted to squadron commander
 - B. To determine which of the soldiers were or were not patriotic
 - C. To force Milo Minderbinder to obey the dictates of the administration
 - D. To enforce the idea that national defense is "everybody's job"(Pg. 124)
10. Which of Major ____ de Coverley's duties is most important to the plot of the story?
 - A. Finding Italian laborers for the mess hall
 - B. Renting apartments for officers and enlisted men to use on leave
 - C. Spearheading the conquests of enemy cities
 - D. Pitching horseshoes
11. Why does Yossarian order his plane turned around on the first mission to Bologna?
 - A. The flak being fired at them is too dangerous.
 - B. Snowden needs urgent medical attention and must be rushed back.
 - C. He has a faulty intercom that he sabotaged himself.
 - D. Aarfy will not get out of his bombardier's compartment.
12. What two literary devices are found in this description of General Dreedle's nurse: "She was succulent, sweet, docile and dumb..."(Pg. 226)
 - A. Juxtaposition and allusion
 - B. Paradox and alliteration
 - C. Juxtaposition and alliteration
 - D. Paradox and juxtaposition
13. Referring to Natelly's sister as a "sapling body" is an example of
 - A. allusion.
 - B. metaphor.
 - C. personification.
 - D. alliteration.

14. How does Milo Minderbinder avoid negative consequences for contracting to bomb his own squadron?
 - A. He bribes the special prosecutor sent to investigate him.
 - B. He points out that, since everyone should profit from the syndicate, he has done nothing wrong.
 - C. He distributes delicacies from all over Europe to the members of his squadron.
 - D. He hides behind his title as the Shah of Persia.
15. In chapter 25, how does the chaplain find the strength to continue his faith?
 - A. He is renewed by the opportunity to write condolence letters to the families of soldiers killed in action.
 - B. His new friendships are giving him the strength to persevere.
 - C. He finds solace in reminiscing about good times with his wife.
 - D. He sees a naked man sitting in a tree.
16. Major Sanderson thinks that Yossarian should be “taken outside and shot” for his subversive ideas. (Pg. 309) 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.

Essays

(Answer any two.)

1. In Chapter 41, Yossarian is haunted by a “strange man with a mean face” who keeps appearing and saying, “We’ve got your pal, buddy. We’ve got your pal.”(Pg. 442) Who is Yossarian’s “pal”? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.
2. Compare and contrast the different functions that love and sex have for Yossarian in the novel.
3. Using examples from the story, give a cogent explanation of what Catch-22 actually is. Assess whether Catch-22 is at work in modern American society, and give relevant examples.
4. Juxtaposition and alliteration are often combined to produce examples of paradox in Heller’s syntax. Explain at least five examples from the text of the story.

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Test Answer Key

1.	B	6.	B	11.	C	16.	A
2.	C	7.	D	12.	C	17.	A
3.	C	8.	C	13.	B	18.	B
4.	A	9.	A	14.	B	19.	B
5.	D	10.	B	15.	D	20.	D

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Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. How do Aarfy's physical description and his comments reveal his moral character?
2. Describe the effect that the non-linear chronological structure of the novel has on the reader. Why do you think the author uses this situation?
3. Assess the overall effectiveness of Milo's syndicate. What positive and negative effects does it have on the squadron in particular, and the American army in general?
4. List three incidents from the story that support the following theme: Relationships based on self-gratification will not be meaningful.
5. What do the differences between Colonel Korn and Colonel Cathcart tell the reader about the differences between practical reality and the reality imagined by administrative management?
6. Why has Yossarian lost his patriotism?
7. Explain the role of allusion in the story, using at least five examples.
8. Compare and contrast Nurse Cramer and Nurse Duckett.
9. Why does Yossarian fall in love with the chaplain?
10. Compare and contrast Yossarian's relationships with Nurse Duckett and Luciana.
11. Why do you think Yossarian misreads Orr so badly? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
12. How does Yossarian feel when, despite the fact that the upper military management is focused on infighting and politics, the American army is successful in the war?
13. What kind of language is used to express Yossarian's rebirth as a non-patriot after he returns with his crew from the Bologna raid?
14. What is *déjà vu*? How does it come into play in the plot of this novel?
15. Why does Nately experience such frustration with the old man in the apartment? Why does this old man remind Nately of his father?
16. Explain how the story of Milo's enterprise turns from literal tale into farce.

17. Identify the tragic elements in Doc Daneeka's "death."
18. Compare the characters of Mudd and Doc Daneeka. How are they alike?
19. Explain how details and syntax are used to build up the sense of tragedy in chapter 39.
20. Cite several examples of Catch-22. Why do you think the author shows both insignificant and serious consequences of Catch-22?

CATCH-22

Study Guide Teacher's Copy

Chapter 1: The Texan

Vocabulary

jaundice—a yellowish discoloration of the whites of one's eyes and skin, caused by diseases of the liver

monotonous—unchanging

intralinear—within the line

salutations—greetings

repercussions—consequences

ethereal—beyond perception by the senses

echelon—level or rank

accord—will

expurgating—eliminating

loony—crazy

squadron—a basic air force tactical unit

conciliating—soothing

glutinous—sticky

meticulously—with great care

derogated—ridiculed or insulted

epitome—ideal

1. Why does Yossarian “fall in love” (Pg. 1) with the chaplain?

Answers may vary. Example: It is clear from their conversation on page 21 that Yossarian feels, at the very least, that he can make the chaplain feel better; he may even feel pity for the chaplain. It is the chaplain's pitiful quality that makes Yossarian “[glow] with affection.” (Pg. 21)

2. How is antithesis used to introduce the idea of an inefficient medical establishment within the military?

The fourth paragraph of the story uses repetition of the phrase “brisk and serious” to emphasize the strict routine that the doctors follow. The doctors’ “efficient mouths” are then contrasted with their “inefficient eyes,” suggesting that the doctors are much better at talking about medical problems than recognizing them. Their stringent manner is at odds with their inability to make accurate diagnoses.

3. What is the effect of the simile comparing the Texan to “someone in Technicolor”? (Pg. 17)

This simile is designed to make the Texan seem more exaggerated than everyone else. He represents the extreme conservative rhetoric of the time; he feels that “people of means—decent folk—should be given more votes than...indecent folk—people without means.” (Pg. 17)

4. What reaction do the soldiers in the ward have to the Texan?

The image of “shudders of annoyance scampering up ticklish spines” emphasizes the extreme annoyance that the good-natured complacency embodied by the Texan brings out in all the other soldiers in the ward. (Pg. 18)

5. What words express the lifelessness of the soldier in white on page 18?

Answers may vary, but should include at least two of the following: the soldier’s “useless” and “strange” limbs; the “lead weights suspended darkly above”; the “zippered lips”; the “silent” pipe, and the machinelike way in which his waste and nutrients are simply switched. Nothing in the ward is more non-vital than this figure. The fact that a thermometer is needed to “discover” that he is dead cements the impression.

6. What details suggest the balance of power in the relationship between Yossarian and the chaplain?

Yossarian smiles at the chaplain with a “big, fascinated grin” and “glow[s] with affection” when the chaplain is talking to him. (Pg. 21) The chaplain “flush[es]...and gaz[es] down at his hands” and even “shove[s] his knuckles into his mouth with a giggle of alarm.” (Pg. 18) Clearly, there are self-esteem issues that place the chaplain at Yossarian’s mercy. Luckily, Yossarian takes pity on the chaplain—he’s the only in the unit to do so.

Chapter 2: Clevinger

Vocabulary

infundibuliform—shaped like a funnel

apoplectic—seizure-like

putrescent—rotten and decaying

vehemently—with passion

homicidal—murderous

stupor—sleeplike state

succulent—juicy and sweet

spatulate—shaped like a spatula

1. Is it a paradox when the narrator says that the Texan is “really very sick”? (Pg. 25) Why or why not?

The narrator gives his opinion of the insanity of war in the beginning of this paragraph and seems to be suggesting that the war requires its participants to lose their grasp of reality. We are told that the Texan's “indestructible smile cracked forever across the front of his face.” (Pg. 25) The fragmented nature of the smile suggests that the Texan's patriotism is an unhealthy response to the ironies of war. Paradoxes appear in the contradictions of war; thus, the Texan's attempts to be positive demonstrate sickness.

2. Pages 25 and 26 contain the dispute between Yossarian and Clevinger about whether Yossarian is insane. Is Yossarian paranoid, or are his fears justified?

Answers may vary. Example: Yossarian believes that “every one of” the enemy soldier is trying to kill him. Clevinger argues that it is not a personal matter, because the enemy is trying to kill every Allied soldier. To Yossarian, though, it makes no difference, because his own life is at stake, and he has none of Clevinger's patriotic convictions. It would seem that Yossarian's only distortion is his lack of patriotism.

3. How are the conventions of normal language twisted on pages 26 and 27 to express Yossarian's difference from the archetypal soldier?

When the narrator is discussing Yossarian's opinions about his place in the war, he inserts “not” in normally positive descriptions to show Yossarian's discontent: “And if [being shot at] wasn't funny, there were lots of things that weren't even funnier.” (Pg. 26) When the narrator is describing the officer's club, he refers to it that the “officers' club that Yossarian had not helped build. Actually, there were many officers' clubs that Yossarian had not helped build, but he was proudest of the one on Pianosa.... Yossarian throbbed with a mighty sense of accomplishment each time he gazed at it and reflected that none of the work that had gone into it was his.” (Pg. 27) Yossarian lacks the self-sacrificing patriotism that feeds, in the narrator's opinion, the military establishment. This is brought to a climax on page 29, where Yossarian refers to himself as a “supraman”—a man capable of heroism, but only for or toward himself.

4. Explain the allusion to Dostoevsky on page 29.

Clevinger compares Yossarian to Raskolnikov, the protagonist in Crime and Punishment, one of Fyodor Dostoevsky's most famous novels. Raskolnikov justified his murder of an old woman by claiming that some people deserve to use, and even dispose of, other people who are “inferior.” His real motive, of course, was his own poverty and her hoarded riches, but he convinced himself that he deserved to kill her because he had more genius and potential than she did. Clevinger argues here that it is a similar egoism that keeps Yossarian from feeling the same patriotism as his fellow soldiers.

Chapter 3: Havermeyer

Vocabulary

multitudinous—a number too large to count

directive—order

prolix—excessive in length, or boring

pretentious—inflated; pompous

grotesque—distorted; oddly exaggerated

ineptitude—inability or incompetence

pulverized—broken into tiny pieces

geysering—shooting steam or smoke up into the air

proficient—highly skilled

chortle—laugh; chuckle

exultantly—jubilantly; triumphantly

1. How is repetition used to foreshadow Orr's eventual fate on page 34?

Yossarian finds Orr as Orr is being beaten on the head by a whore, who is using the spiked heel of her shoe. Orr's response is to "giggle" again and again, which only drives the whore to try to hit him harder. This response, and Orr's silence about the whore's motive, suggests something unusual or strange about Orr. The reader finds out, eventually, that Orr is trying to sustain an injury so that he will have to be sent home from the war.

2. What is ironic about the initial battles for turf between General Dreedle and General Peckem?

The fact that a mail clerk who has been demoted from the rank of Private First Class can determine which general's communications are received and followed turns military hierarchy on its head

3. Explain the comparison between the pilots who have finished fifty missions and "useless young men in a depression." (Pg. 36)

Answers may vary. Example: These pilots have no way to occupy their time, except to wait for what they assume will be bad news—an increase in the number of flights. Colonel Cathcart's tendency to increase the number of flights required before rotation is making them nervous. Young men in a depression have the ability to work, but they have no opportunity, and bad news is much more likely to come to them than good news.

4. Explain how you know that General Peckem chose the wrong person to generate enthusiasm for the USO visits.

Colonel Cargill makes misstep after misstep. He begins his address to the enlisted men by referring to them as officers; even when he does address his audience correctly, he shows no understanding of their situation or emotional state: "You're American officers. The officers of no other army in the world can make that statement. Think about it. He waited a moment to permit them to think about it.... This is all voluntary, of course. I'd be the last colonel in the world to order you to go to that show and have a good time, but I want every one of you who isn't sick enough to be in a hospital to go that U.S.O. show right now and have a good time, and that's an order!" (Pg. 37) This paradox/non sequitur is clearly the wrong approach with these officers, as their later lack of enthusiasm demonstrates.

5. What details show Havermeyer's insanity? How do these characteristics help him as a bombardier?

He sits and waits for field mice to come into his tent so that he can shoot them. He uses candy as bait, and even pre-sights the target area. He "would chortle exultantly as he watched the tiny mammal freeze and roll its terrified eyes about...Havermeyer would wait until the eyes fell upon his own and then he laughed aloud and pulled the trigger at the same time...." (Pg. 39) The concentration required keeps him focused and straight in line on his bombing missions, ensuring that his target is eliminated.

6. What happens to Hungry Joe during one of Havermeyer's mouse-shootings?

One of Havermeyer's late-night mouse executions awakens Hungry Joe, who falls into one of the slit trenches that turn up "like magic...the morning after Milo Minderbinder [bombs] the squadron." (Pg. 40) This inserted detail adds to the air of insanity and to the mystery of why Milo would bomb his fellow soldiers.

Chapter 4: Doc Daneeka

Vocabulary

elephantiasis—a swelling of tissue, resulting in skin like that of an elephant

wheedled—begged with a petulant voice; whined; coaxed

subversive—someone who stirs up rebellion

panacea—a fast or easy solution that is; usually unrealistic in the long term

utopia—an ideal or perfect society

homiletic—like a sermon on a practical topic

funereal—very grave or serious

unctuous—oily or slimy

cryptic—secret or mysterious

1. Which of Doc Daneeka's physical characteristics express his declining spirit?

He has "mournful pouches under both eyes." (Pg. 41) He sits "all tucked up into himself, his slender shoulders huddled halfway around his head...." (Pg. 43) His expression suggests worry, and his posture suggests self-protection.

2. Explain Dunbar's definition of age.

Dunbar says that one is "...inches away from death every time [one goes] on a mission" and then asks, "How much older can [one] be?" (Pg. 48) This close proximity to death wears the soldiers down faster than civilian life does—not just physically, but emotionally and psychologically.

Chapter 5: Chief White Halfoat

Vocabulary

occult—secret, mysterious

bullish—strong; vigorous

inadvertently—unintentionally

rarefied—thinned

phantasmagorical—containing abnormal combinations and absurd fantasy

cosmological—extending across the entire universe

annihilate—to destroy completely

strident—loud and shrill

ravenous—violently hungry

1. What does Doc Daneeka consider to be his most valuable medical instruments? What does this tell the reader about him?

His most precious instruments are his adding machine and his typewriter. In fact, he was on the edge of bankruptcy when other doctors were called to the war, and he picked up the remains of their practices. This suggests that he is in medicine for the money rather than for the purpose of healing people.

2. Explain the two different descriptions of Chief White Halfoat on page 52.

The first description focuses primarily on his strong physical appearance, his origins, and his determination to die of pneumonia. The second focuses more on his bitterness and his attitude toward people who are not Indians. Taken together, these two descriptions show that he, like others in the book, is difficult to categorize.

3. What is ironic about Chief White Halfoat's outrage over discrimination against Indians?

He wants to be treated the same as any other person, but he does not feel that other members of minority groups should receive that treatment—in fact, on page 53 and elsewhere, he uses every typical racial slur of the time period to refer to them. He wants equality for himself, but still wants to have ethnic groups to look down upon.

4. Explain the play on words used to describe the expulsion of Chief White Halfoat's cousins to Canada.

Chief White Halfoat's cousins wandered as far north as Canada to avoid being pushed onto yet another reservation. When they tried to reenter the United States, however, they were denied admittance because they were "red." (Pg. 54) "Redskin" and other terms were slurs used against Indians, but "red" could also describe a Communist sympathizer.

5. In your own words, give a definition of Catch-22, as explained on page 55.

Answers may vary but should conclude that Catch-22 expresses some sort of inescapable paradox.

6. What is ironic about the diction used in Yossarian's description of Catch-22?

Its "perfect pairs of parts" have "an elliptical precision" that is "graceful and shocking, like good modern art." (Pg. 55) Yossarian thinks of Catch-22, which is supremely illogical, as logically perfect and mechanically beautiful. The other irony is that the "modern art" Yossarian would have seen prior to and during WWII would have been quite jarring and disruptive, not "mechanically beautiful."

7. How is personification used to describe the airplanes on page 57?

Even the airplanes are reluctant to go on these missions: the engines start "disgruntledly" and the planes "[lumber] around and [nose] forward lamely...like stupid, crippled things." (Pg. 57) The suggestion is that the mission at hand—bombing a town or a bridge—is just as unnatural as these ungainly machines lurching into flight carrying unwilling humans.

8. What is the effect of the oxymoron at the bottom of page 57?

The crawlway has awful associations for Yossarian, who has to crawl down "every mammoth inch" of the crawlway to get to his parachute, and then to the escape hatch. We are reminded that time seems to stop during these nerve-wracking experiences, so that even a short distance seems impossibly long.

9. What literary devices are used to heighten the sense of horror in Yossarian's mind on page 58?

Alliteration: the "bursting and booming and billowing" flak

Juxtaposition of elevated/poetic and humble/prosaic language: "goddam cantilevered" "goddam foul black tiers"

Polysyndeton: "...that jarred and tossed and shivered, clattered and pierced, and threatened to annihilate them all..."

The effect of these devices is to create a rhythm that evokes the racing fear, the wild swings in mood, the threat of imminent death, and the pounding heart of the bombardier.

10. What central event of this novel is first remembered in this chapter?

Heller brings up Snowden's death. At first, the reader experiences only the very first part, when Yossarian hears Dobbs' cries to help some unknown person in the back of the plane. Dobbs at first thinks that the bombardier (Yossarian) is hurt, but Yossarian answers that he is all right. Yossarian must then make his way back down the crawlway to see who is hurt. As the novel progresses, more of this event is revealed.

Chapter 6: Hungry Joe

Vocabulary

motile—able to move independently
subcutaneously—underneath the skin
wily—slippery or trickery
cajolery—flattery designed to persuade or coax
furgle—slang for sexual intercourse
boisterous—noisy
inebriated—intoxicated or drunk
barbarous—uncivilized or primitive
innocuously—harmlessly
portentously—ominously, or suggesting danger
metamorphosis—transformation or change
retorted—answered sarcastically

1. What devices are used on page 61 to give an especially vivid description of Hungry Joe's mania?

Alliteration and simile: "...twitching veins squirming subcutaneously...like severed sections of snake."

Simile: "...face sooty with care like an abandoned mining town."

Diction: Note the emphasis on animal tendencies in this list of verbs—"...ate voraciously, gnawed incessantly at the tips of his fingers, stammered, choked, itched, sweated, salivated, and sprang from spot to spot..."

2. What is the cause of Hungry Joe's nightmares?

He has them only when he is finished with his combat missions; when he has to face danger, he does not have frightening dreams. It is the uncertainty that eats away at his mind.

3. What is the effect of the allusion on page 64?

Kraft's death is described as having happened on "...the seventh day, while God was resting..." The effect is to suggest that divine inattention may be one source of the insane terrors of war.

4. Where does Catch-22 make its second appearance?

Yossarian learns that, although he has forty-eight missions, he will not be allowed to go home; Colonel Cathcart has raised the number of missions required for a dismissal. Although the Air Force seems to work in a mechanical, legalistic fashion, Yossarian is required to "...obey every order"; all of the men are actually at the mercy of an illogical man's whim. (Pg. 67)

5. Contrast Yossarian's and Hungry Joe's responses to the raising of the mission requirement to 55?

Yossarian "[slumps] with disappointment," whereas Hungry Joe "[heaves] a huge sigh of relief...and [breaks] into a grin." (Pg. 68) Hungry Joe may not be permitted to go home, but at least his uncertainty is resolved Yossarian, on the other hand, is fully aware of his probable doom.

6. Compare Wintergreen's lack of sympathy towards Yossarian with Yossarian's own sense of self-preservation.

Throughout the novel, Yossarian opposes those forces that would destroy him; he is on his own side only, regardless of the circumstances. Wintergreen asserts the logical inverse of this philosophy; he is on the side of whatever is not destroyed. Therefore, if Yossarian is to be shot, Wintergreen is naturally on the side of the shooters.

Chapter 7: McWatt

Vocabulary

derisive—insulting or negative

deferentially—respectfully

imploringly—pleadingly

consternation—anxious dismay

paroxysms—spasms

syndicate—an association of people or companies formed in order to carry out business

exasperation—impatient annoyance

1. How is repetition used to emphasize absurdity in this chapter?

Yossarian, Milo, and McWatt each cry, "What's this?" in response to something that challenges or surprises them. (Pgs. 69, 70) Although all of them are trapped in absurd patterns, each man's reality makes sense to him; any challenge to this reality causes deep anxiety.

2. What is the figurative significance of Corporal Snark poisoning the squadron with soap?

Corporal Snark's purpose is to show the low standards of the enlisted men and officers when it comes to food. It seems that most human beings will accept whatever is given to them, even if it is harmful.

3. What is ironic about Milo's desire to move Corporal Snark into administration?

Snark poisoned the men to prove that they did not know good from bad, especially when it came to their own well-being; as an administrator, he will have a much greater opportunity to prove the same point.

4. What is ironic about Milo's appearance? How does this apply to his moral character?

His face is described as "simple, sincere, honest, [and] frank." (Pg. 73) However, his eyes are "disunited" and his eyebrows are not the same color as his hair or his mismatched mustache. Milo is a person who has many principles, and he sincerely believes in all of them. However, most of these principles are designed to profit himself, including his rule that "it [is] never a sin to charge as much as the traffic [will] bear," especially because "every man will have a share." (Pgs. 73, 76)

5. What is absurd about the "profit" Milo delivers to Yossarian and McWatt?

Although Milo does present Yossarian with more than the package of dates he "invested," and McWatt with more of the bedsheet than would have been possible without intervention, his notion of "profit" makes no sense: no matter how many pieces of the bedsheet each man receives, each man is left with something useless. (Pg. 75)

Chapter 8: Lieutenant Scheisskopf

Vocabulary

demise—death; end
pernicious—harmful
predilection—preference
atrociously—awfully or terribly
beseeched—pathetically begged
tart—a promiscuous woman
titanic—giant, beyond measurement
chortled—giggled
epochal—of major historical significance (here, used ironically)
aplomb—skill or dexterity

1. Explain the allusion on page 77.

The beginning of the chapter addresses the reasons why some soldiers perished in the war, while others survived. “To die, or not to die, that was the question,” is the narrator’s comment on this problem. This is an allusion to Hamlet’s famous conundrum about whether to continue living or not. (“To be or not to be, that is the question...”) Hamlet wonders why he should stay alive; Yossarian wonders why he should die.

2. Explain the comparison of Scheisskopf to King Lear.

Shakespeare’s Lear goes mad after his daughters betray him; the scene in which, insane with grief, he rushes out into a storm is one of the most powerful and tragic in literature. Scheisskopf’s raging is made all the more ridiculous by its comparison to Lear’s. In addition, Lear is a character who refuses to hear the truth about himself; Scheisskopf says that he wants the truth, but does not.

3. On page 79, the narrator describes Yossarian’s love for Dori Duz. Why does he love her? Compare this love to Yossarian’s love for the chaplain.

*Dori Duz represents everything that Lieutenant Scheisskopf is against—he is methodical and obsessed with detail to an absurd degree, but she is wild, animal-like and concerned only with her own pleasure. Yossarian’s hatred for Lieutenant Scheisskopf becomes inseparable from his love for Dori Duz, and so any time he “gets even”) with Scheisskopf (by sleeping with his wife, for example), he is also acting out love for Dori Duz. (Pg. 79
Yossarian’s love for the chaplain is pure and sympathetic, but his love for Dori Duz is actually inverted hatred.*

4. What is Yossarian’s opinion of the parade contest? What does this tell the reader about his suitability for the military?

Yossarian sees the prizes as useless because they contain no “class privileges” or monetary benefit; he classifies sports trophies in the same way. (Pg. 81) This tells us that Yossarian is unlikely to display the self-sacrifice required of a soldier, who must follow all orders, even if they seem ridiculous.

5. What is tragic about Lt. Scheisskopf's mania for parades?

He has lost sight of his soldiers as people—he wants to install “nickel alloy” parts in various areas of their bodies and nail the marchers to a long board to make them march more uniformly. (Pg.82) He completely misses the point that, when he lets them elect their own cadet officers, their performance improves. Scheisskopf also misses out on the companionship of his wife. Ultimately, though, he ends up in charge of the entire combat theater—an expression of the ultimate silliness that seems to dominate management in this novel.

6. What does Clevinger learn at his trial?

Clevinger finds that the administration forces in the Air Force hate him more than any other enemy ever could. His earnest logic is, by definition, at odds with the logic of the Action Board; the Action Board represents the negation of everything he is.

Chapter 9: Major Major Major Major

Vocabulary

vanquished—totally defeated
desiccated—dried; withered
diligently—with careful determination
compliant—obedient
belligerent—hostile; aggressive
demean—to ridicule or scorn
gambling—carefree; frolicking
implacable—unable to be soothed
superfluous—extra
august—wise and dignified
photostats—enlarged photographic copies
garishly—loudly; gaudily

1. Explain the allusion on page 92.

Major Major Major Major is compared to Miniver Cheevy, a character in a poem by Edwin Arlington Robinson. There are several parallels: Miniver Cheevy “[weeps] that he was ever born,” much like the Major curses his very name, and the sudden promotion that alienates him from his first group of friends. Miniver “[sighs] for what [is] not/And [dreams], and [rests] from his labors,” much like the Major spends his days of “success” hiding in his office, wearing a mask, and forging the signature of Washington Irving on official papers. (Pg. 93) Both characters are insignificant men who are doomed to be unsatisfied.

2. Explain the play on words found on page 93.

The sentence that starts, “Some men are born mediocre...” is an inversion of the quotation by John W. Gardner, “Some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon ‘em.” The emphasis on Major Major’s potential greatness only highlights his inferiority; his father’s immense stature, his mother’s sacrificial illness in childbirth and even the Major’s resemblance to Henry Fonda all lead to nothing.

3. How is the description of Major Major's father satirical?

Major Major's father represents a grotesque distortion of American individualism. Whereas figures like Abraham Lincoln are mythologized for self-reliance, toughness, and independence, Major Major's father uses the language of rugged individualism to justify his own laziness and greed.

4. Why do Major Major's elders feel such antipathy toward him?

Answers may vary. Example: He obeys every command or order given to him. This may breed distrust in his elders, or it may breed contempt for someone who is so righteous.

5. Explain the allusion on page 96.

The story of Saul and David appears in the Old Testament. According to prophecy, David would unseat Saul as king of Israel. Saul, therefore, pursues David throughout Israel but is never quite successful in finding and killing him. His frustration with David's growing popularity leads him to isolate himself and sit in his tent, stewing over the situation.

6. What imagery and diction are used to express the change wrought by Major Major's promotion to squadron commander?

As Colonel Cathcart drives away, "the rain clouds [gather] above [Major Major] again. When he [turns] to his teammates, he encounter[s] a reef of curious reflective faces all gazing at him woodenly with morose and inscrutable animosity." (Pg. 98) The weather imagery clearly indicates a shift in mood, Major Major's dream of camaraderie and friendship with his fellow soldiers falls victim to this new separation in their relationship.

7. How does the return of the C.I.D. investigator emphasize the theme of the book?

The fact that two bored soldiers—Yossarian and Major Major—can instigate such a costly, time-consuming investigation over document signatures suggests that the government spends much more time on unimportant affairs than on actions that have practical value.

8. Explain the play on words on page 107.

"Major Major had lied, and it was good." This is a spoof of the language on Genesis 1, where the same sort of formulation is used to describe the end of every day of creation ("God saw that it was good"). Here, though, this formulation is used to portray Major Major's deception of the C.I.D. investigator and the creation of a reclusive existence in the middle of a military squadron that Major Major commands. The phrasing is repeated on page 111, where the Major looks "back on what he [has] accomplished [and is] pleased."

Chapter 10: Wintergreen

Vocabulary

reverberating—echoing

formaldehyde—preservative used for bodies after death

sardonic—darkly sarcastic

charnel—a place to store the dead

1. Explain the first two sentences in this chapter.

From Yossarian's viewpoint, Clevinger's ideas are now moot, and they no longer worthy of discussion, because he is dead—and thus in violation of Yossarian's self-preserving instinct.

2. Explain the third reference to Catch-22, found on page 115.

Wintergreen feels that his job is to avoid work and escape combat. However, the better he performs this task the closer he is to being sent back into combat.

3. What is the rhetorical purpose of the curious case of Mudd?

Mudd is the name of the "dead man in Yossarian's tent." (Pg. 117) He shows up to the squadron and is immediately sent into action, only to die on his first mission. His belongings are still in Yossarian's tent and, since he was never officially entered into the squadron records, it is impossible to get him removed. The purpose of this, as well as the later confusion over Doc Daneeka's "death," is to demonstrate the silliness that can result when "official" records are relied on instead of practical reality. The sentence, "His name was Mudd," is a play on words that shows the lack of concern that the administrative personnel have for this dead soldier. (Pg. 117)

4. What rhetorical devices are used to express the men's fear of the coming trip to Bologna on page 118?

Juxtaposition or paradox: "The hand-lettered sign...[left] by Captain Black as a joke [was] left hanging there by Doc Daneeka because it was no joke."

Imagery: "the clinging, overpowering conviction of death"; "rainfall soaking...moldy order of mortality into each man's ailing countenance"; "the corrosive blot of some crawling disease"

Simile: "Doc Daneeka...roosting like a melancholy buzzard"

All of these suggest coming death and the men's dread of the mission.

5. What do Dr. Stubbs and Yossarian have in common?

They appear to have seen through the cruel lies of the military establishment and are engaged in their own individual rebellions. Dr. Stubbs has decided to go against orders and ground any soldier who wants to be grounded; Yossarian has decided that he will not fly to Bologna.

Chapter 11: Captain Black

Vocabulary

stratagem—plan or tactic

cohorts—allies or sidekicks

innovation—a new way of thinking or acting

1. Explain why Captain Black takes such joy in the upcoming mission to Bologna.

He derives his sense of accomplishment and power from the amount of fear he can create in others. As squadron intelligence officer, he has jurisdiction over a number of administrative affairs, but does not have combat status—and it is this that keeps him from becoming the new squadron commander. He designs the Glorious Loyalty Oath Crusade to defame the new commander Major Major. Soon, all over the squadron, the practical needs of war become secondary to the political need to sign loyalty oaths. This continues until Major _____ de Coverley simply refuses to sign and demands that all the soldiers be served food. The mission to Bologna gives Captain Black a new opportunity to create fear in the soldiers in this squadron—an opportunity in which he takes perverse pleasure.

2. What is ironic about the loyalty oath?

Officially, this oath is voluntary, but soldiers have to sign one or more of these oaths to draw pay, to receive food, even to get a haircut. Something that is forced is no proof of loyalty, as Captain Black unwittingly points out when he mentions the example of children reciting a Pledge of Allegiance that they cannot yet understand.

3. Explain the fourth reference to Catch-22, on page 124.

Captain Black's crusade becomes so ridiculous that he asks Milo not to feed soldiers who do not sign the loyalty oath, despite the program's voluntary nature. The captain is trying to create an inescapable situation, much like the more official versions that force the men to go on more missions.

4. What is ironic about the way Major _____ de Coverley ends the Glorious Loyalty Oath Crusade?

He is described as having such "fierce and austere dignity" that the officers in front of him part "like the Red Sea." He speaks with a "clear, full-bodied voice...resonant with ancient eminence and authority." However, his language is simple; he says only "Gimme eat." Despite the fact that his voice sounds like "claps of distant thunder" and that his tone is one of "righteous belligerence," his childlike syntax shows the very basic, common-sense level of thinking that can see through Captain Black's charade. (Pgs. 125, 126) Political danger does not scare this soldier, who only thinks on the level of practical needs. The contradiction between his demeanor and his syntax expresses this paradox.

Chapter 12: Bologna

Vocabulary

ruminate—to think or meditate
incubating—growing or maturing
macabre—grotesque; dark
wraiths—evil spirits
affront—an offense
vindictive—seeking revenge
exuberantly—joyfully
sibilant—hissing
ecstatically—with great happiness and excitement
ignominiously—without dignity or honor
emaciated—unhealthily skinny

1. How is repetition used on pages 129 and 130? What is the rhetorical effect?

Captain Black, Colonel Korn, Colonel Cathcart, and even General Dreedle are all annoyed when they are awakened in the night with the news that Bologna has been “captured”—the first three officers even “whimper” when they are awakened. Their happiness at the military “victory” is overshadowed by their annoyance at being inconvenienced. This serves to express the distance that people working in administrative responsibilities tend to develop from practical reality.

Chapter 13: Major _____ de Coverley

Vocabulary

musette bag—small leather traveling bag
conjectured—guessed
peremptory—curtly commanding
vexatious—annoying or irritating
obsequious—obnoxiously respectful
excoriating—cutting or rough
contrite—guilty; sorry
flaccid—flabby

1. What is ironic about the general confusion as to Major _____ de Coverley’s identity?

He is merely an opportunist—he heads to a city that is about to be captured so that he can be photographed in the advance. The Germans want to know how he is in so many of the newly conquered cities, and the Americans—so incompetent that they cannot even identify one of their own officers—want to know who he is so they can promote him. His other purpose in those cities is to rent apartments for officers and soldiers to use on leave—a distinctly non-combat job. This irony is compounded when he is injured on one of these triumphal entries—by a rose that has been thrown, which hits him in the eye.

2. Why does Yossarian love the maid with the lime-colored panties?

He loves her because “she [seems] to be the only woman...he [can] make love to without falling in love with.” (Pg. 143) This is a new type of love—the love that does not compromise one’s invulnerability.

3. What is the effect of the alliteration on page 147?

Yossarian has just returned from a bombing mission in which his decision to make a second run at the target led to the deaths of Kraft and his crew. The crew “died in the distance of a mute and secluded agony...” while Yossarian is caught “in the same vile, excruciating dilemma of duty and damnation.” This repetition imitates the pounding inside Yossarian’s mind as he trudges to meet with his superiors.

4. Why does Yossarian get a medal and a promotion?

It is the best political solution to what could have been a damaging situation for the whole division. He is rewarded for bravery because it is the most photogenic solution for everyone—this is why Yossarian is told to leave the room with a smile, and why the colonels have their arms around him.

Chapter 14: Kid Sampson

Vocabulary

insensate—incapable of perceiving through the senses

dolorously—suggestive of death or mourning

primeval—ancient, as in the first days of the earth

1. On the first page of this chapter, Yossarian is described as “brave.” How has his bravery changed?

During the Ferrara mission, Yossarian made a second run at the bridge, because he would have missed it the first time and wanted to do a diligent job—this is one form of bravery. On the way to Bologna, however, Yossarian is brave enough to sabotage his intercom and force cancellation of the mission. Now, the bravery is related to self-preservation and subversion; before, it was connected to patriotism and a sense of duty.

2. What is the effect of the images of decay in the last paragraph of page 152 and on page 153? What literary term is represented when comparing the fungus and Yossarian?

Answers may vary. Example: Yossarian is “alone in a ponderous, primeval lull in which everything green look[s] black and everything else [is] imbued with the color of pus.” This may suggest the inner decay that has taken place inside Yossarian, robbing him of the ability to act out of duty. The fungus that is “sprouting in such necrotic profusion” through the ground may well represent the malaise that has taken hold of Yossarian’s psyche.(Pg.153) This concept would be called an objective correlative.

Chapter 15: Piltchard & Wren

Vocabulary

reticently—not eager; hesitantly
ululating—loudly wailing or crying
gyrated—twisted and turned
orated—spoke with skill

1. How does the syntax in the first full paragraph on page 156 express narrative point of view?

Five of the sentences start with “he” or “his” (referring to Yossarian). The narrative point of view here is entirely inside Yossarian’s mind.

2. What is the effect of comparing the sound of the engines to that of a “fat, lazy fly”? (Pg. 156)

Yossarian feels caught in a trap when he watches the flak flying up at him, much like a fly helplessly caught in the web of a spider would feel.

3. How is Aarfy’s moral character hinted at in this chapter?

Aarfy seems to take pleasure in Yossarian’s suffering. He crowds into the nose with Yossarian, despite the fact that Yossarian does not want him to; he jabs Yossarian in the ribs with his pipe, which sends Yossarian into hysterics. Despite being beaten, Aarfy keeps smiling and pretends not to hear Yossarian, who eventually drags him down the crawlway and throws him into the main bay. These incidents tell the reader that Aarfy may enjoy torturing others. On page 159, Yossarian comes to “[dread Aarfy] for a complex of reasons he [is] too petrified to untangle.” When Yossarian later discovers that Aarfy has raped and murdered a girl in Rome, Aarfy’s true nature comes to light.

4. What images are used to describe the planes as they struggle to escape Bologna? What is the effect of those images?

They make “their swift way through the swollen masses of new and old bursts of flak like rats racing in a pack through their own droppings. One [is] on fire, and [flaps] lamely off by itself, billowing gigantically like a monstrous blood-red star...flaring out in back like a long, swirling cape of fire and smoke...fluttering insensibly inside its vivid pyre like a shred of colored tissue paper.” (Pg. 160)

These three similes—rats, a bloody star, and a pyre—all suggest violent death. It is unavoidable, and it is tragic. The fact that the rats are among their own droppings suggests that the aggressors have triggered their own demise.

Chapter 16: Luciana

Vocabulary

apprehensive—nervously worrying
vituperations—harshly abusive statements
libidinous—possessing a strong sex drive
slattern—promiscuous woman
fructified—enhanced or enlivened
ubiquitous—everywhere at once
lucrative—financially advantageous
unperjured—not yet betrayed

1. Describe the rapport that develops between Yossarian and Luciana.

Luciana is interested in him—she initiates conversation about dancing and dinner, which she definitely wants before anything else. The brutally short courtship of the typical soldier encounter is not what she wants. Yossarian plays hard to get, and this actually gives them time to get to know one another and develop some sort of connection. Yossarian cannot handle this sort of love; later in the chapter, he throws away her address, to his great regret.

2. What is the effect of the alliteration used to describe the girl in the orange satin blouse on page 165?

To Yossarian, she is “amoral, appetizing.” He is pleased that she will buy her own drinks and does not need any money. The alliteration pairs two words that normally would not be used together, showing Yossarian’s conflicted moral state.

3. How is Aarfy’s attempt to improve the girl in the orange blouse morally used to foreshadow his actual depravity?

He uses the word “prod” to describe sexual intercourse—which is a word more suitable for the type of poking used to irritate or annoy. He knows that his refusal to have sex with the girl infuriates his fellow soldiers, and he knows that getting her to throw the pornographic ring away will enrage Hungry Joe, which is why he does it—not for any charitable purpose. So, when Yossarian says that Aarfy has “[t]he dirtiest” mind, he is actually foreshadowing what is to come. (Pg. 167)

4. How are Yossarian’s feelings for Luciana the fifth appearance of Catch-22 in the story?

She says she will not marry him because he is crazy, and that he is crazy because he wants to marry her. This is a more comical, lighthearted version of the trap that seems to govern the military establishment, and it continues on the next page.

5. Why does Yossarian have sex with the maid in the lime-colored panties at the end of the chapter?

This sex is purely narcotic—to assuage the sense of loss he feels for throwing away the opportunity to have a genuine relationship with someone based only on connection rather than monetary exchange or selfish gratification.

Chapter 17: The Soldier in White

Vocabulary

officious—annoyingly precise about details

solicitous—attentive to duty

leviathan—huge

1. What is the effect of the personification of Death on pages 175 and 176?

Inside the hospital, death happens more gently. Death has to “act like a lady” there. Sickness and injury take people slowly in the hospital; there are none of the explosive, sudden, gory deaths of combat.

2. What is the effect of the repetition the paragraph that begins, “They didn’t take it...” on page 176?

The paragraph comparing death in the hospital to other kinds of death—is highly sarcastic (they died “like gentlemen”)—Yossarian seems to be blaming people for dying in horrible ways. It is as if they are rude or vulgar for dying so graphically. From this passage, the reader gets a sense of the distorted view of life that war causes.

3. Why does Yossarian hate Nurse Cramer?

Nurse Cramer is either ridiculously ignorant about the realities of war or in very deep denial about its consequences. She continues to believe in a moral reality that Yossarian knows is a lie.

4. What is the effect of the alliteration and repetition on page 182?

The alliteration comes in the list of the people who, in Yossarian’s mind, want him dead: “bartenders, bricklayers, and bus conductors...lynchers, leeches, and lackeys.” The repetition is found in the next paragraph, where the word “diseases” appears thirteen times to emphasize the multitude of ways a person can die. Both of these devices lend a singsong, humorous aspect to the passage, suggesting Yossarian’s unstable mental state.

5. Explain the sixth appearance of Catch-22, on page 184.

Doc Daneeka can ground whomever he wants, but those pilots will be put right back on combat duty because the Group can overrule Daneeka’s decisions, and the doctor could be sent to a less desirable post. Another loophole for Yossarian has been detected and closed.

Chapter 18: The Soldier Who Saw Everything Twice

Vocabulary

oscillating—swinging back and forth like a pendulum
quarantined—isolated to control the spread of disease
sententiously—pompously
scatological—focused on the excretory functions
halcyon—beautiful in memory
insouciantly—without respect; cockily
daguerreotype—a photograph made on metal with a light-sensitive silver coating
sere—withered or dry
iniquitous—sinful
gruesome—awful or disgusting
tumid—swollen or bulging

1. What is the effect of the reference to the *Oedipus* story on page 186?

The English doctor finishes his speech about the liver by making a judgement based on his own life and referring to the Oedipal Complex. Like everyone else in a position of authority in the book, his vision is totally skewed by personal bias.

2. What is the significance of the soldier who sees everything twice?

This soldier's symptoms mean nothing to the medical staff, but everyone assumes that seeing everything twice, regardless of the true number, is a sign of a terrible disorder or disease. Yossarian believes that the soldier is merely acting, and decides to imitate him; Yossarian even goes so far as to believe that dying is part so the soldier's charade. The line between madness and sanity is further blurred in this section. The absurdity, incompetence, and stupidity of the doctors is enhanced when the soldier is cured and can see everything once, even ten fingers.

3. What are the cynical elements of Yossarian's encounter with the family coming to see another soldier?

The doctors know that Yossarian has been lying about his liver condition, but have not done anything about it. The doctor suggests that the family has traveled all this way more to experience the inner release of crying than to see their relative; he then tells Yossarian that everyone is "in this business of illusion together." (Pg. 192) The doctor's theory is borne out by the fact that Yossarian uses his own name with the family, and they never miss a beat in their grieving. Who dies and who lives is again rendered immaterial.

Chapter 19: Colonel Cathcart

Vocabulary

impervious—immune
foppish—snobby in a silly way
adroitly—skillfully
debonair—suave or smooth
indefatigable—untiring
sarcophagus—casket
vicissitudes—sudden, unexpected changes
laudatory—worthy of praise
cumbersome—clumsy or burdensome
requisition—order; call up
brazenly—boldly

1. How is juxtaposition used to express the paradox that is Colonel Cathcart?

He is described as “slick, successful, slipshod...dashing and dejected...poised and chagrined...handsome and unattractive.” (Pg. 197) The use of opposites increases the sense of irony that both emotions could be at work in the same person.

2. Explain the implications of referring to Colonel Cathcart as “his own sarcophagus.” (Pg. 198)

A sarcophagus is an ornately decorated tomb. As much as Colonel Cathcart works to improve his own political and physical appearance, he is doomed to failure and is described as a “valorous opportunist”—he only is courageous when it benefits himself. This is especially ironic because most of his superiors are “scarcely aware that he is even alive.” (Pg. 198) As in a closed tomb, all Colonel Cathcart’s actions never have an effect on anyone or anything outside himself.

3. Compare and contrast Colonel Cathcart to Yossarian.

Both men think that others are out to get them—Yossarian fears all external sources of death, and Cathcart fears all external sources of shame. Yossarian’s fears seem more substantial, because he is caught in impersonal forces that control his destiny, but those same forces control Cathcart. Yossarian seems to possess more empathy than Cathcart, whose pride moves him to unfeeling cruelty. This difference is most sharply emphasized when Cathcart realizes he should feel pity or respect for the chaplain. Yossarian loves the chaplain for this reason; Cathcart hates him for it.

4. How does Colonel Cathcart demonstrate an absolute ignorance about matters of faith?

He gets the idea to say prayers before a mission from The Saturday Evening Post. He wants the prayers to stay away from “this Kingdom of God or Valley of Death stuff” and even “away from the subject of religion altogether,” and wonders why they cannot pray for “a tighter bomb pattern.” (Pgs. 202,203) The aesthetics of the mission concern Cathcart, not the safety of the men. The possibility of publicity drives Cathcart to prayer for his men, not any sense of a divine presence. This is why it is ironic that the only solution Cathcart can recommend for Yossarian is to “trust in God.” (Pg. 207)

Chapter 20: Corporal Whitcomb

Vocabulary

petrified—frozen with fear
disparagingly—scornfully or with disrespect
liaison—contact or communication
rancor—anger or wrath
germinated—sprouted; grew
truculently—in a hostile or violent manner
dispel—to eliminate
malaise—listlessness or depression

1. What is the purpose of the chaplain's isolation?

The chaplain lives in a clearing almost four miles from the Group Headquarters building. Colonel Korn sees a political purpose to having a chaplain—occasionally, there are deaths, services, and men who need counseling—but no need to have a constant moral reminder of God in the camp.

2. Explain Corporal Whitcomb's behavior toward the chaplain.

Corporal Whitcomb is enthusiastic about the social benefits of religion, but is not religious himself (he does not even believe in God). He grows frustrated with the Chaplain, who is sincerely religious, but not very social. Corporal Whitcomb is another example of an official who serves the organization rather than individuals or himself.

Chapter 21: General Dreedle

Vocabulary

execrable—worthy of hatred
veneration—respect; honor
coalesced—solidified
succulent—juicy; appealing
intransigent—stubborn or obstinate
quell—to make quiet or subdue
incredulously—in disbelief
vacillating—hesitating
simpering—smiling prissily
effulgently—brightly

1. What can the reader learn about Colonel Cathcart from his “mature and systematic evaluation of the entire military situation”? (Pg. 222)

His analysis is divided into two lists: “Black Eyes!!!” and “Feathers in My Cap!!!!” This analysis, of course, is solely based on self-interest and has nothing to do with the Allied positions.

2. How is General Dreedle's position in the army an example of dramatic irony?

General Dreedle is in a position where he has "wasted too much of his time in the Army doing his job well, and now it [is] too late. New power alignments [have] coalesced without him and he [is] at a loss to cope with them." (Pg. 226) His competence has kept him from making the connections that Peckem and other generals have made, and this will cost him dearly as the book draws to a close.

3. What impression does the reader get from the description of General Dreedle's nurse, and how does word choice contribute?

She is "succulent, sweet, docile, and dumb." (Pg. 226) The first two words could refer to food—particularly to fruit. The third and fourth words could be used to refer to an animal. Given that her description begins with the thought that she is "a delectable piece of ass," these alliterative lines are all the more dehumanizing. (Pg. 226)

4. Summarize General Dreedle's method of managing his subordinates.

Unlike many other administrators in the story, General Dreedle asks only that his subordinates do their work; other areas of their performance are not controlled. This has advantages and disadvantages: Colonel Cathcart can raise his mission limit as high as he wants, regardless of the effects on morale and effectiveness, but Yossarian is not punished for his nudity on the day he receives his medal.

5. Explain Yossarian's love for the general's nurse.

To Yossarian, she looks like a "fertile oasis" just beyond his reach; he sits in "clammy want" with "parched, thirsting lips...[moaning] in misery." (Pg. 230) This is a sensual lust based on deprivation and inaccessibility.

6. Why do the other men in the room echo Yossarian's depraved moaning?

The other men are also attracted to the general's nurse, but are no closer to having her than Yossarian is. Their repressed urges break out all at once, causing a kind of chaos. "The flavor of disobedience [is] titillating," in a different way than access to the general's nurse would be. (Pg. 231) Satisfying this urge fills the room until the general himself ends the moaning.

7. How does Colonel Korn's speech to the men have ironic consequences?

While he is giving the preparatory speech to the men, Korn shows off for General Dreedle, grandstanding far beyond what is needed. Korn sees General Dreedle go up to Colonel Cathcart and whisper in his ear, and he assumes that he (Korn) is being noticed in a positive way. At the end of the chapter, though, the reader discovers that Colonel Korn was making the general sick with his long speech

Chapter 22: Milo the Mayor

Vocabulary

abatement—reduction

virile—strong in a masculine way

hangdog—depressed or disappointed

gesticulating—wildly gesturing

galvanic—having the effect of an electric shock

concupiscent—sexual

1. Why does Dobbs ask for Yossarian's help in murdering Colonel Cathcart?

At first, it seems like Dobbs wants help with part of the plan. As it turns out, though, Dobbs can do the whole thing by himself; he just wants Yossarian to say to do it. This is his way of evading responsibility; Dobbs, like everyone else in Heller's depiction of the Air Force, is afraid to think for himself.

2. Why is the reader told about the absurd number of titles and honors that Milo has garnered throughout the Middle East and Africa?

The rhetorical argument behind all these titles is that people worship material prosperity. Since Milo has sold all of these people on his syndicate and convinced them that there is value in it for them, they have conferred on him all manner of nobility, and even divine status in some areas.

Chapter 23: Nately's Old Man

Vocabulary

connoisseur—an experienced appraiser
corpulent—fat or fleshy
rubicund—rosy or ruddy
resplendent—dazzling or brilliant
caustic—harsh; grating
cornucopia—a scene of plenty; treasure-store
lasciviously—with sexual thoughts
captious—looking for errors or mistakes
cataleptic—sitting rigidly, without response to external stimuli
calumnies—lies or untruths
lissome—flexible or limber
coquettishly—flirtatiously
befuddlement—confusion
fascist—one who believes in totalitarian or dictatorial government
parody—mocking or satirical portrait
sacrilegious—intentionally offensive about religious matters

1. How does Aarfy's attitude toward the three prostitutes foreshadow coming events?

When Nately brings his whore and the other two back, Aarfy "[pokes] and [pats] each of ...[them] skeptically with the air of a grudging connoisseur" and says that "[t]hirty dollars is a lot of money for pieces like these." (Pg. 250) The effect of these comments is to dehumanize the girls.

Aarfy then suggests that the men keep the girls in the apartment until after curfew and then threaten to have them arrested unless they give Aarfy and Nately their money—Aarfy even suggests threatening to throw the girls out the window. This threat shows us more of Aarfy's grotesque amorality and foreshadows his rape and murder of a young girl later in the story.

2. Nately becomes irate when the old man suggests that America will not last forever, and that it is better to lose a war than to win one; the narrator terms the old man a "sly and sinful assailant" spewing out "obnoxious calumnies." (Pg. 254) Why does Nately consider the old man sinful, and in what way are the old man's statements untrue?

The old man's priority is individual survival, and a proper perspective as to one's relative importance in the universe. When Nately says that the old man is talking "like a madman," the man retorts, "But I live like a sane one." (Pg. 255) The difference between the two men is a matter of priority—to one, collective achievement is more important than individual survival, but to the other, those priorities are reversed.

3. Why does the old man choose an American Beauty rose to throw at Major _____ de Coverley, and an edelweiss for the German *Oberstleutnant*?

While maintaining an appearance of excited patriotism for the new conquerors, the old man used the flowers as his subversive gesture against authority. Details such as the "smug and threadbare splendor" in which the old man sits, though, belie the desperation of his position.(Pg. 256) He, like his country, is so poor that he has nothing to lose, regardless of which side he is on.

4. Why does the old man remind Nately of his father?

Nately first notices this resemblance because the two are "nothing at all alike." The old man represents a negation of everything Nately has ever admired or imitated.

Chapter 24: Milo

Vocabulary

argosies—sources or supplies; treasure stocks

ersatz—an imitation

phlegmatic—calm or unemotional

visage—facial expression

fustian—pompous or self-serving

flotsam—floating garbage

hauteur—arrogance

1. Explain the reversal of a cliché in the first paragraph of this chapter.

The common cliché is that, in the spring, a young man's fancy will turn to thoughts of love. Milo's, however, turn to thoughts of tangerines. He is certainly not the only character in Catch-22 to shun love for material advancement: Lt. Scheisskopf rebuffs his wife's advances to plan for the next parade; Col. Cathcart turns down the opportunity to find dalliances with women, unless personal advantage is also involved. The author's purpose is to point out the relative worth that money is permitted to possess.

2. Why does Milo have his mechanics repaint the borrowed planes?

He wants to remove any sign of partiality, as he serves countries on both sides of the war. Winning, patriotism, loyalty, and the expected reactions to war are generally absent from these soldiers. Survival is paramount to Yossarian, and profit is the motivating force behind Milo. The use of M&M (Milo and Minderbinder) is to disguise the fact that the syndicate is operated by one person.

3. How does Milo avoid bankruptcy?

In purchasing the entire Egyptian cotton crop, Milo makes a huge financial gamble. Now that he cannot sell the cotton, he must find other ways to make money, so he finally accepts a German contract to bomb his own outfit. This results in outrage and anger, until he shows the men the immense profit involved and each person's share in the profits.

4. After Snowden's death, why doesn't Yossarian want to wear any clothes?

Yossarian gets off the plane "with Snowden smeared abundantly" all over him. (Pg. 270) His refusal to wear clothes is a reaction to the horror of the experience, an attempt to get as far away as possible from anything associated with that day. He is also retreating into childhood in his return to nakedness, trying to recapture the innocence that he had before Snowden's death.

5. Why is it ironic that Milo wants to feed the soldiers chocolate-covered cotton?

Milo stood firm and would not let Captain Black starve the soldiers who would not sign loyalty oaths. Now that his fiscal life, as opposed to his physical life, is on the line, he is ready to feed those same soldiers something inedible to save his own income statement.

Chapter 25: The Chaplain

Vocabulary

annals—historical records
infinitesimal—too small to measure
coactive—working together at the same time
reveries—daydreams
mutinous—rebellious
cadaverous—resembling a corpse
ulcerated—eaten away
hirsute—hairy
amicably—in a friendly way
capitulate—to surrender

1. What is one possible metaphorical significance of the black thread that Sgt. Whitcomb is using to sew his patch on his uniform?

Answers may vary. Example: Whitcomb has measured and is now sewing his patch on with the chaplain's black thread, a clear sign that he is using the chaplain to advance his own career. The fact that he bites the chaplain's black thread apart "contemptuously is suggestive of the role of the Fates, who, according to myth, would weave, measure, and cut the threads representing a person's life. (Pg. 290)

2. What is ironically humorous about this statement from Colonel Cathcart: "He says you've got no initiative either. You're not going to disagree with me, are you?" (Pg. 291)

In the first sentence, the colonel is criticizing the chaplain for a lack of initiative; in the second, Cathcart is using his rank to bully the chaplain out of exercising any initiative the man might actually have.

3. Where does the chaplain find encouragement to continue in his religious faith?

The chaplain has ceased to believe in miracles and has come to believe that "misfortune tramp[s] with equal brutality on the virtuous and the corrupt." (Pg. 295) There are two signs that bring him back to faith: the "mystic phenomena [of] the naked man in the tree...and the cryptic, haunting, encouraging promise of the prophet Flume...." (Pg. 295) These are the only indications that there is a moral world beyond the confines of Sgt. Whitcomb, the two colonels who delight in tormenting the chaplain, and the unending line of death that the chaplain experiences each day.

Chapter 26: Aarfy

Vocabulary

covertly–secretly

satiated–satisfied; full

vacuous–empty; vacant

recalcitrant–stubborn

trollops–promiscuous women

sanctimonious–self-righteous; overly pious

1. Contrast Nately and Aarfy's definitions of true love.

Nately watches his whore as she sits, mostly naked, in a room full of gamblers who are paying her absolutely no attention. She has walked up "five steep flights of stairs to sell herself to the group of satiated enlisted men" and now seems "more fatigued than disappointed." (Pg. 296) Nately finds this poise to be heroic, and it is part of what he loves about her—her courage under rejection, even in such seedy surroundings.

Aarfy is in love with political and material gain and also with Nately's father because he (Aarfy) has his eye on an executive position in Nately's father's company after the war.

2. Explain why Nurse Cramer is so upset with Yossarian, even before he tells her to go away.

She sees Yossarian as the property of the U.S. government; he has a duty to make sure his leg heals, since "the Army has invested a lot of money to make [him] an airplane pilot, and [he has] no right to disobey the doctor's orders." (Pg. 302)

Chapter 27: Nurse Duckett

Vocabulary

fulcrum—a point of balance

plaintively—with a whiny tone

assuage—to calm or relieve

furtive—secret

keening—crying or whining

redolent—with a strong odor

1. Why does Yossarian sexually assault Nurse Duckett?

Yossarian views her as someone who is independent and confident. He feels that there is "nothing she [needs] from anyone"; he, therefore, "[takes] pity and [decides] to help her." (Pg. 303) In Yossarian's view, he has placed her in a position of vulnerability, so that he will have company in his misery. In keeping with his tendency to challenge authority, he tries to undermine Nurse Duckett's need for a sense of control.

2. How do Yossarian and Dunbar avoid accountability for their attack on the nurse?

They act insane, and easily distract the doctor/colonel from the assault on Nurse Duckett by mentioning a recurring dream that Yossarian has about holding a live fish in his hands.

3. In what ways is Major Sanderson used to make fun of psychoanalysis?

First of all, Major Sanderson is presented as a diminutive version of Freud: instead of a beard or even a "long goatee," he only has a double chin to pull on, and, whereas Freud made reference to cigars as phallic symbols in dreams, Sanderson only refers to cigarettes. (Pg. 305) Freud's concentration on sexual imagery in dreams becomes absurd here, since Sanderson wants to hear only about dreams that contain sexual innuendoes. In addition, Sanderson responds to Yossarian's simple, logical answers by saying, "That's a very interesting explanation. But we'll soon discover the true reason, I suppose." (Pg. 305) Sanderson also acts childishly when on identifying elements in the conversation that he must have heard about in medical school; he "proudly letter[s]" the word "contradiction" on his pad when he catches Yossarian in one, and he "[springs] up with joy" at the words "ambivalent attitude." (Pg. 306) Finally, Yossarian seems to take on the role of analyst at times, asking Sanderson if the Major has a dislike for seagulls, and why he takes personal blame for the ignorance of others. Once Yossarian is released, he even goes around looking for others' dreams to make Major Sanderson happy. By making Major Sanderson seem like an incompetent idiot, Heller is poking fun at the tradition and profession of psychoanalysis.

4. Major Sanderson thinks that Yossarian should be "taken outside and shot." (Pg. 309) How is this both similar to and different from General Dreedle's order to shoot Major Danby?

The general's order was based on an instinctive reaction to what he perceived as personal disrespect. Major Sanderson ridiculously identifies Yossarian as a subversive, because Yossarian has "no respect for excessive authority or obsolete traditions." (Pg. 309) Both the Major and the General react harshly to supposed disobedience; one does so on an individual level, and the other on an institutional level.

5. What is the role and significance of the mysterious Anthony F. Fortiori? Explain the situational irony of Sanderson's thinking.

This is the soldier with whom Yossarian mischievously switches places in the hospital. The term "A fortiori" is a Latin phrase that can be translated as "from the stronger cause." The twist begins when Dunbar and Yossarian can get soldiers of lesser rank to trade beds with them because of their superior rank. It ends as a sad joke: even though Yossarian is found to be crazy, Sanderson thinks that Yossarian is A. Fortiori; therefore, Fortiori gets sent home, while Yossarian is, once again, sent back into combat.

6. What is the one problem that Major Sanderson finds with Yossarian that makes him crazy?

Yossarian has "been unable to adjust to the idea of war." (Pg. 313) All of his other so-called problems ("deep-seated survival instincts," "a morbid aversion to dying," "manic-depressive," etc.) that Sanderson mentions are actually positive characteristics.

Chapter 28: Dobbs

Vocabulary

parturition—birth

sedulously—without stopping

stertorous –snoring heavily

1. Explain Dobbs' change of heart about killing Colonel Cathcart.

Yossarian has decided that he will help kill Colonel Cathcart. However, Dobbs has now flown enough missions to be out of combat, so his life is no longer in immediate danger. Yossarian correctly points out that Cathcart is likely to raise the number of missions again, but Dobbs cannot see beyond his present position of comfort. The presence of the cigar only adds to Dobbs' attitude of complacency, which is most smugly expressed when he tells Yossarian to "fly [his] sixty missions like the rest of [them] and see what happens." (Pg. 317)

2. What is ironic about Yossarian's patronizing concern for Orr?

Yossarian views Orr as a "warmhearted, simpleminded gnome" and a "happy and unsuspecting simpleton," even as Orr is trying to hint that they should "crash-land" and escape the war together. (Pg. 322) The irony is heightened by the fact that Yossarian's own plans to crash-land in Switzerland are described in this part of the novel; Orr actually escapes to Sweden.

3. Explain the effect of the diction in Yossarian's fantasy about the countess and her daughter-in-law on page 325.

As he fantasizes about sex with them, Yossarian can even sense the "prurient, used, decaying feel in his petting hands." On some level, he knows that the gratification would be fleeting and would only add to his inner sense of moral decline.

Chapter 29: Peckem

Vocabulary

myopic–nearsighted

augmenting–enhancing or enlarging

turgid–filled; inflated; swollen

stringent–strict

erudite–scholarly

apothegms–short, witty, instructive sayings

loquacity–talkativeness

souse–a drunkard

peroration–conclusion of a speech

1. Why does General Peckem feel that “his polish just [isn’t] getting across”? (Pg. 330)

Peckem tells Col. Scheisskopf, “Nothing we do in this large department of ours is really very important, and there’s never any rush. On the other hand, it is important that we let people know we do a great deal of it.” (Pg. 330) General Peckem is attempting to be dry and witty, but Scheisskopf only wants to know about the parades.

2. Explain why General Peckem seems to enjoy creating disharmony among his subordinates.

General Peckem feels vastly superior to Colonel Scheisskopf and Cargill. He, therefore, plays them against one another as if he were playing a game.

3. Explain Colonel Korn’s treatment of Havermeyer in the briefing.

After Colonel Korn asks the men if they want to be given the more dangerous assignments of Bologna, Spezia, and Ferrara, the only one who responds with enthusiasm is Havermeyer. Havermeyer seems to draw a perverse pleasure out of the danger and his fellow soldiers’ rage about his tactics. Colonel Korn comes over to Havermeyer and “chuck[s] [him] under the chin jovially” while “ignoring him” at the same time. (Pg. 337) The implication is that Korn thinks Havermeyer is either trying to curry favor or is a fool.

4. What is ridiculous about the strategy of this particular bombing mission?

The wider the bombs are apart, the more difficult the roadblock will be for the Germans to evade. However, Colonel Korn is ordering a tight bombing pattern Peckem (a term himself “dreamed up”), so that the aerial photographs will show neatness. (Pg. 335) The political benefits for Colonel Cathcart are more important than the strategic aims of the mission, and Colonel Korn does not hesitate to make this calculation clear to all the other officers present.

Chapter 30: Dunbar

Vocabulary

vapid—airheaded; empty

incorrigible—shameless

callipygous—having perfectly proportioned buttocks

reproving—chastising or correcting

truncated—cut off

viscous—thick

1. What kind of relationship does Yossarian have with Nurse Duckett in this chapter?

The narrator says that Yossarian enjoys his time with Nurse Duckett “more than he sometimes enjoyed making love to all the vigorous bare girls in Rome.” (Pg. 346)

The apparent contradiction of Yossarian’s enjoying sex more than he “sometimes” enjoys sex elsewhere emphasizes the lack of emotion feels at both times.

Yossarian draws vitality from touching Nurse Duckett, especially when he sees the drowned man and grasps “ravenously out for her. (Pg. 347) They enjoy the sense of attachment that they give to one another.

2. What is the farcical element of McWatt’s suicide?

Doc Daneeka is on McWatt’s flight manifest, so that this flight would count as a mission for him. However, he is on the ground, watching as McWatt flies into a mountain. Even then, Sergeant Knight refuses to recognize that Daneeka is not on the plane: official records, military myopia, and incompetence, once again, take precedence over actual reality.

Chapter 31: Mrs. Daneeka

Vocabulary

pullulating—breeding quickly and abundantly

compunction—sharp guilt

comply—obey

1. What humorous elements contribute to the farce of Doc Daneeka’s “death”?

Answers may vary. The following elements from pages 351-354 should be included:

- *Doc Daneeka’s decrease in temperature, and the explanation by Gus and Wes.*
- *Gus’ and Wes’ responses to his “death.”*
- *The refusal of any of Doc Daneeka’s superiors to meet with him.*
- *Mrs. Daneeka’s “delight” with the new male attention she receives.*
- *The chaplain’s ironic inability to bring Daneeka “back to life.”*

Chapter 32: Yo-Yo's Roomies

Vocabulary

moldering—decaying or rotting

obtuse—stupid

cronies—sidekicks or buddies

calcareous—chalky

1. What is the effect of the simile describing Kid Sampson's amputated legs?

They are compared to a "purple twisted wishbone." (Pg. 356) This is ironic because according to superstition, a wishbone is supposed to bring good luck. Clearly, Kid Sampson has not been lucky.

2. Why does Yossarian have such antipathy toward his new roommates?

They still have the enthusiasm of the uninitiated soldier. Things like sports, hobbies, and pranks are still funny to them, because they have not caught Yossarian's depression. Because they have not yet experienced gory death firsthand or detected the lies of the military administration, they are not "introverted and repressed." (Pg. 358)

Chapter 33: Nately's Whore

Vocabulary

transmogrified—radically changed or metamorphosed

1. Explain the significance of Yossarian's sexual escapades in Rome.

He wants the women he cannot have (Luciana and Nurse Duckett), so he pursues the women he can have, but in a mechanical, impersonal way; students should note the fact that the physical affection he does receive ironically reminds him of the women he cannot have. One example would be, "He...went shopping for presents for Nurse Duckett and a scarf for the maid in the lime-green panties, who hugged him with such gargantuan gratitude that he was soon hot for Nurse Duckett and ran looking lecherously for Luciana again." (Pg. 362)

2. Why does Nately's whore finally fall in love with him? What changes does this make within Nately? Do these changes actually make him crazy, as all the other characters seem to say?

Nately's whore finally falls in love with Yossarian when she gets him and some others to rescue her from some military leaders who want a sort of emotional response from her and are frustrated. Nately takes her home so she can get a good night's sleep. Immediately, Nately tries to make this woman fit his ideal of her: no more prostitution, no more associating with her prostitute friends, and no more associating with the troubling old man. The double standards abound, and the reader soon finds Nately ordering his friends to settle down and get married and vilifying the old man for his contempt for Congress.

Answers may vary as to Nately's sanity. Nately is trying to impose his values on others, and there is much in his values that is redeeming, but his unswerving faith in the American political system dooms him to disappointment, in Heller's opinion.

Chapter 34: Thanksgiving

Vocabulary

insatiably—inability to be satisfied

saturnalia—a party designed to fulfill the sensual urges

obstreperously—loudly disobedient

1. Explain the play on words regarding the chaplain's decision to lie his way into the hospital.

The earlier use of the language of Genesis I to describe Major Major's creation of a solitary life in the squadron that he commands appears again here: "The chaplain had sinned, and it was good." (Pg. 374) The "protective rationalization" has appeared to the chaplain, and now that he knows to identify right and wrong based on his inner emotional responses rather than ethical absolutes, he is a new person; it is miraculous. (Pg. 374)

2. Why does Dunbar vanish?

Dunbar is upsetting the staff and other patients on the ward by suggesting that the soldier in white has been "stolen." He is, therefore, as Nurse Duckett says, "disappeared." (Pg. 378)

Chapter 35: Milo the Militant

Vocabulary

complacent—self-satisfied or smug

1. What is the effect of the imagery describing the planes on page 387?

When Dobbs' plane falls into the sea, the impact is compared to a "white water lily" that creates a "geyser of apple-green bubbles." These images of innocence and fruitfulness fly in the face of the violent, terrifying death that precede them.

The remaining wing of the plane turns "as ponderously as a grinding cement mixer." The slow speed suggests a fatalistic mood, and the use of the word "cement" suggests a permanence about the fate of the pilots. Students should note the disparity and juxtaposition of between the images of flowers, fruit, and death.

Chapter 36: The Cellar

Vocabulary

chirruped—made a joyful noise

1. Contrast the chaplain's and Sergeant Whitcomb's responses to the losses in Dobbs' plane.

The loss of twelve men presents Sgt. Whitcomb with three opportunities: to send out twelve impersonal letters of condolence, to potentially have Col. Cathcart in a spring edition of The Saturday Evening Post, and to possibly land himself another promotion. The chaplain is immediately gripped by the tragedy involved. The imminence of death is made vividly clear to him, and his first thought is to pray for the deliverance of his friends.

2. What is the irony of choosing this point in time to interrogate the chaplain?

There are over 200 men "staring blankly in different angles of stunned dejection...unable to move"(Pg. 389 If there is any time that the chaplain is needed, it is at such a time as this. However, it is at this time that he is dragged into a cellar and interrogated about letters he did not forge and a tomato that he did not steal. The reader is shown the difference between administrative perceptions of reality and actual reality.

3. What sentence best encapsulates the farce of the chaplain's interrogation?

Answers may vary. Examples:

"Then why would we be questioning you if you weren't guilty." (Pg. 395)

"Chaplain, I simply can't understand your thinking process." (Pg. 356)

The entire interrogation could easily be taking place in a communist country or in a Mafioso's hideout. Priorities are skewed, logic is amiss, and conclusions are foregone.

Chapter 37: General Scheisskopf

1. What is ironic about General Peckem's appointment as wing commander?

Peckem had placed Col. Scheisskopf in charge of placing all combat operations under the direction of Special Services, which had been General Peckem's responsibility. Ironically, the request was approved just when Peckem was moved into General Dreedle's former position; since there was no one left to command Special Services, Col. Scheisskopf was promoted to general and given that command. Special Services is now in charge of combat operations, so Peckem must now report to Scheisskopf. The general who took such pride in his appearance and in his writing must now report to a General literally and figuratively named "shit-head," who only wants to organize parades. All of Peckem's maneuvers have come to naught.

Chapter 38: Kid Sister

Vocabulary

depraved—totally given over to sinful urges

subterfuge—a trick

1. Explain the allusion on page 403.

Yossarian refuses to fly any more missions, and, in the meeting that the leadership holds to discuss this, Colonel Korn asks, "Who does he think he is—Achilles?" (Pg. 403) Achilles, a legendary Greek warrior, refused to fight with the rest of the Greeks against the Trojans because of his feud with Agamemnon, another great warrior. Achilles' initial anger arose over the fact that, at the beginning of the Trojan War, Agamemnon took a girl belonging to Achilles. This enraged Achilles, and he refused to fight the Trojans until his closest friend, Patroklos, was killed by the Trojans. Ironically, it is the death of a close friend that makes Yossarian refuse to fight anymore, thus entering into direct combat with his superiors—a complete reversal of the gestures Achilles made, but with a bravery that is similar.

2. Why is Nately's whore obsessed with killing Yossarian?

Yossarian is the one who broke Nately's nose, which angered his whore in the first place. Now that he is dead, she is angry at the institution that killed him: the military. Since Yossarian is in the military, he is the easiest target.

3. Why are so many different people, including the gung-ho Havermeyer and Appleby, coming up to Yossarian in the dark now that he is openly rebelling against orders?

It seems that there is a "morbid and clandestine kinship he had not guessed existed." (Pg. 413) Apparently, all of the pilots are feeling the same fears that Yossarian has, and his rebellion gives them a sort of vicarious release. Of course, they will not be seen with him in the daylight, when any sort of association might be seen as treacherous.

Chapter 39: The Eternal City

Vocabulary

ecclesiastical—having to do with religion or the church

surrealistic—like a strange dream

catatonic—in a trance

pugnaciously—with a fighting attitude

evocative—expressive

dulcet—pleasing to the ear

genial—kind or friendly

1. What is “The Eternal City” a reference to?

“The Eternal City” is a nickname often associated with Rome. On a figurative level, though, considering what happens in this chapter, it also reflects on the universality of human suffering, and the inescapability of human greed.

2. What is the seventh, and most outrageous, manifestation of Catch-22?

The reader finally sees the naked truth of Catch-22: the authorities “have a right to do anything we can’t stop them from doing.” (Pg. 417) This includes the authority to issue regulations, to modify those regulations, to confine, to restrict, to abridge, to seize, even to kill, because they have the power of force, even when they have squandered the power of right. It logically follows, of course, that Catch-22 does not need written verification to prove its existence; ultimately, it requires only force.

3. What imagery is used to show the twisted depravity of the materialistic state?

Milo’s “epileptic lust” to smuggle illegal tobacco that distracts him from helping Yossarian find a real, endangered, twelve-year-old virgin (Pg. 421); the sign on Tony’s Restaurant: “Fine Food and Drink. Keep Out.” (Pg. 422); the slanted tops of the “sheer buildings.” (Pg. 422)

4. What is the symbolism of the Allied soldier having convulsions?

All of the soldiers helping the convulsive lieutenant want to do good, but no one knows exactly what action to take. Therefore, they engage in meaningless, unhelpful actions like putting him on a car and then taking him off. This group, like all other groups (large or small) in the novel, is unable to function logically.

5. Explain the allusion on page 425.

In Crime and Punishment, Raskolnikov (see Chapter 2, Question 4) has a dream about a man beating a horse with a whip; later in the novel, he sees that actually happen. Here, Yossarian sees a man beating a dog and then, a street later, a man beating a small boy. In neither case does anyone from the crowd intervene to help. The rhetorical effect is to show how mobs will permit brutality to go on, because individuals fear reprisal if they step in the way.

6. What is the significance of the fact that Yossarian keeps tripping over evidence of brutality (broken teeth, the feet of a woman) as he walks through the streets?

Again and again, Yossarian passes by these scenes of brutality without intervening. The message is that he cannot escape the brutality, no matter how far he walks. This comes to a head when he is arrested in Aarfy's bedroom: those who do not fight or join the brutality are doomed to become its victims.

7. What solace does Yossarian ultimately decide to seek to help him put the brutality out of his mind?

He wants to "lie down with some girl he could love who would soothe and excite him and put him to sleep." (Pg. 427) Again, sex acts as a drug for Yossarian to put the present pain out of his consciousness. Even this avenue is denied him, however, because he cannot find any of his former prostitutes. The one girl he knows of has been raped and murdered by Aarfy.

8. How is suspense built and increased between Yossarian's arrest and his arrival in Colonel Cathcart's office? What happens to this suspense?

At first, there are only two M.P.s, but even just these two have "icy eyes and firm, sinewy, unsmiling jaws" and "fingers as hard as steel manacles." Two more are waiting in the car, and they take him to a cell "with four stone walls" and no restroom except for the bucket they give him the next morning—quite primitive conditions. At the airport, there are two more M.P.s, bringing the new total to six, and all of them have "clubs and white helmets" as well as "granite faces." (Pg. 429) After they land in Pianosa, two more join them, and one of the most menacing details is the absolute silence these policemen maintain.

Once this crew arrives at Group Headquarters, still two more M.P.s—a guard detail of ten—go with Yossarian. Each one seems "powerful enough to bash [Yossarian] to death with a single blow. They [would have] only to press their massive, toughened boulderous shoulders against him to crush all life from his body." Yossarian is not even permitted to move under his own power; two of the policemen hold him under his arms, and as they move faster, Yossarian feels "as though he were flying along with his feet off the ground." The footsteps of the soldiers sound like "an awesome, quickening drum roll," the soldiers move with "even greater speed and precision," and "violent winds of panic [begin] blowing in Yossarian's ears." (Pg. 430) The increasing speed, the frightening silence, and the multiplying soldiers—up to 12 by the time they reach Yossarian's office—as well as the quickening syntax in the last two sentences, create in the reader a sense of terror. However, just as Aarfy's terror is concluded by the false climax of Yossarian's arrest, so is Yossarian's arrest met by the sudden, but anti-climactic decision to send him home.

Chapter 40: Catch-22

Vocabulary

insouciant—unconcerned; careless

despicable—disgusting

rancor—bitter anger

sauntered—strutted

1. Contrast the approaches that Colonel Korn and Colonel Cathcart take toward Yossarian.

Colonel Cathcart cannot seem to understand Yossarian's behavior; Cathcart gets angry, and repeats the cliché of "Doesn't he know there's a war going on?" to express his outrage. (Pg. 433)

Colonel Korn understands Yossarian and is honest about the reality of the deal being offered to Yossarian. Korn calls it "thoroughly despicable" and "absolutely revolting", and calls Yossarian an "intelligent person of great moral character who has taken a very courageous stand." As an "intelligent person with no moral character at all, [Korn is] in an ideal position to appreciate it." (Pgs. 432, 433) As a pragmatist, Korn sees no reason to lie when he knows the lie will not be believed.

2. What is the deal that Colonel Cathcart and Colonel Korn offer to Yossarian? What happens at the very end of the chapter?

Yossarian is free to go home, but there are some conditions. First, they tell him he must go home and make morale-building speeches. When Yossarian balks at that, Korn says that "the important thing is what [Yossarian says] to people [in the squadron]." (Pg. 437) As long as Yossarian says nice things about Cathcart and Korn, they will send him home; they must eliminate the problem of morale that Yossarian's subversion has created. Unfortunately, Nately's whore is waiting to stab him outside the room: the implication is that Yossarian can never escape his responsibility to stand up for his convictions.

Chapter 41: Snowden

Vocabulary

cloying—sweet in a sickening way

malignant—with evil intention

mottled—spotted with different colors

1. What unusual combination of smells is used to express the ambiguity of Yossarian's situation?

Yossarian can smell both formaldehyde and alcohol, the former a preservative for organs of the dead and the latter an antiseptic for living things. The doctors, ominously, talk about whether they should save his life or not.

2. What is the significance of the “strange man with a mean face” who keeps showing up and telling Yossarian, “We’ve got your pal, buddy. We’ve got your pal.” (Pg. 442)

Answers may vary. Example: This may be representative of an anonymous force of institutional brutality that can threaten the freedom of any individual and is the force that Yossarian must decide whether or not he will fight.

3. What is the “official” story of Yossarian's injury?

Cathcart and Korn spread the word that Yossarian scared away a “Nazi assassin” who was headed to their office; Yossarian received his stab wound in the encounter. This is part of the deal set up to give Yossarian a positive send-off from his group.

4. What is the most dramatic literary device used during the operation on Yossarian and during his time in the plane trying to save Snowden?

Answers may vary. Example: The repetition of key phrases (“There, there”; “I’m cold”; “the cloying” scents or smells of “alcohol and formaldehyde”; “sulfanilamide” etc) and the rapid shifting of scenes contribute to the hallucinatory aspect of both places.

5. Explain the allusion found in the reading of Snowden's “entrails.” (Pg. 450)

In ancient times, prophets would use the entrails, or organs, of sacrificed animals to tell the future. Heller makes a twist on this superstition to ascertain the significance of Snowden's death: “Man was matter, that was Snowden's secret.” (Pg. 450) It is learning this secret that makes Yossarian question everything around him.

Chapter 42: Yossarian

Vocabulary

exophthalmic—having a protruding eyeball

wistfully—sadly or regretfully

haymaker—a punch designed to knock out one's opponent

1. At the beginning of the chapter, Yossarian has decided to renege on his deal with the colonels. What unforeseen consequence does Major Danby warn him about?

Apparently, there is another official report that says that Yossarian was stabbed by an “innocent girl in the course of extensive black-market operations involving acts of sabotage and the sale of military secrets to the enemy.” (Pg. 452) This is a part of Catch-22, of course: the authorities can create the truths that are most convenient to them.

2. Why has Yossarian lost the ability to believe in the ideals of patriotism?

Yossarian looks at his superiors and, instead of exemplary patriotism on their part, he sees “people cashing in on every decent impulse and every human tragedy.” (Pg. 455) This opportunism cheapens the ideals for which Yossarian is obliged to fight.

3. Explain whether you think that Yossarian is a coward or a hero for deserting and following Orr to Sweden.

Answers will vary.

CATCH-22

Study Guide Student Copy

Chapter 1: The Texan

Vocabulary

jaundice—a yellowish discoloration of the whites of one’s eyes and skin, caused by diseases of the liver

monotonous—unchanging

intralinear—within the line

salutations—greetings

repercussions—consequences

ethereal—beyond perception by the senses

echelon—level or rank

accord—will

expurgating—eliminating

loony—crazy

squadron—a basic air force tactical unit

conciliating—soothing

glutinous—sticky

meticulously—with great care

derogated—ridiculed or insulted

epitome—ideal

1. Why does Yossarian “fall in love” (Pg. 1) with the chaplain?
2. How is antithesis used to introduce the idea of an inefficient medical establishment within the military?
3. What is the effect of the simile comparing the Texan to “someone in Technicolor”? (Pg. 17)

4. What reaction do the soldiers in the ward have to the Texan?

5. What words express the lifelessness of the soldier in white on page 18?

6. What details suggest the balance of power in the relationship between Yossarian and the chaplain?

Chapter 2: Clevinger

Vocabulary

infundibuliform—shaped like a funnel

apoplectic —seizure-like

putrescent—rotten and decaying

vehemently—with passion

homicidal—murderous

stupor—sleeplike state

succulent—juicy and sweet

spatulate—shaped like a spatula

1. Is it a paradox when the narrator says that the Texan is “really very sick”? (Pg. 25) Why or why not?
2. Pages 25 and 26 contain the dispute between Yossarian and Clevinger about whether Yossarian is insane. Is Yossarian paranoid, or are his fears justified?
3. How are the conventions of normal language twisted on pages 26 and 27 to express Yossarian’s difference from the archetypal soldier?
4. Explain the allusion to Dostoevsky on page 29.

Chapter 3: Havermeyer

Vocabulary

multitudinous—a number too large to count

directive—order

prolix—excessive in length, or boring

pretentious—inflated; pompous

grotesque—distorted; oddly exaggerated

ineptitude—inability or incompetence

pulverized—broken into tiny pieces

geysering—shooting steam or smoke up into the air

proficient—highly skilled

chortle—laugh; chuckle

exultantly—jubilantly; triumphantly

1. How is repetition used to foreshadow Orr's eventual fate on page 34?
2. What is ironic about the initial battles for turf between General Dreedle and General Peckem?
3. Explain the comparison between the pilots who have finished fifty missions and “useless young men in a depression.”(Pg. 36)
4. Explain how you know that General Peckem chose the wrong person to generate enthusiasm for the USO visits.
5. What details show Havermeyer's insanity? How do these characteristics help him as a bombardier?
6. What happens to Hungry Joe during one of Havermeyer's mouse-shootings?

Chapter 4: Doc Daneeka

Vocabulary

elephantiasis—a swelling of tissue, resulting in skin like that of an elephant

wheedled—begged with a petulant voice; whined; coaxed

subversive—someone who stirs up rebellion

panacea—a fast or easy solution that is; usually unrealistic in the long term

utopia—an ideal or perfect society

homiletic—like a sermon on a practical topic

funereal—very grave or serious

unctuous—oily or slimy

cryptic—secret or mysterious

1. Which of Doc Daneeka's physical characteristics express his declining spirit?
2. Explain Dunbar's definition of age.

Chapter 5: Chief White Halfoat

Vocabulary

occult—secret, mysterious

bullish—strong; vigorous

inadvertently—unintentionally

rarefied—thinned

phantasmagorical—containing abnormal combinations and absurd fantasy

cosmological—extending across the entire universe

annihilate—to destroy completely

strident—loud and shrill

ravenous—violently hungry

1. What does Doc Daneeka consider to be his most valuable medical instruments? What does this tell the reader about him?
2. Explain the two different descriptions of Chief White Halfoat on page 52.
3. What is ironic about Chief White Halfoat's outrage over discrimination against Indians?
4. Explain the play on words used to describe the expulsion of Chief White Halfoat's cousins to Canada.
5. In your own words, give a definition of Catch-22, as explained on page 55.
6. What is ironic about the diction used in Yossarian's description of Catch-22?

7. How is personification used to describe the airplanes on page 57?
8. What is the effect of the oxymoron at the bottom of page 57?
9. What literary devices are used to heighten the sense of horror in Yossarian's mind on page 58?
10. What central event of this novel is first remembered in this chapter?

Chapter 6: Hungry Joe

Vocabulary

motile—able to move independently
subcutaneously—underneath the skin
wily—slippery or trickery
cajolery—flattery designed to persuade or coax
furgle—slang for sexual intercourse
boisterous—noisy
inebriated—intoxicated or drunk
barbarous—uncivilized or primitive
innocuously—harmlessly
portentously—ominously, or suggesting danger
metamorphosis—transformation or change
retorted—answered sarcastically

1. What devices are used on page 61 to give an especially vivid description of Hungry Joe's mania?
2. What is the cause of Hungry Joe's nightmares?
3. What is the effect of the allusion on page 64?
4. Where does Catch-22 make its second appearance?
5. Contrast Yossarian's and Hungry Joe's responses to the raising of the mission requirement to 55?
6. Compare Wintergreen's lack of sympathy towards Yossarian with Yossarian's own sense of self-preservation.

Chapter 7: McWatt

Vocabulary

derisive—insulting or negative

deferentially—respectfully

imploringly—pleadingly

consternation—anxious dismay

paroxysms—spasms

syndicate—an association of people or companies formed in order to carry out business

exasperation—impatient annoyance

1. How is repetition used to emphasize absurdity in this chapter?
2. What is the figurative significance of Corporal Snark poisoning the squadron with soap?
3. What is ironic about Milo's desire to move Corporal Snark into administration?
4. What is ironic about Milo's appearance? How does this apply to his moral character?
5. What is absurd about the "profit" Milo delivers to Yossarian and McWatt?

Chapter 8: Lieutenant Scheisskopf

Vocabulary

demise—death; end

pernicious—harmful

predilection—preference

atrociously—awfully or terribly

beseeched—pathetically begged

tart—a promiscuous woman

titanic—giant, beyond measurement

chortled—giggled

epochal—of major historical significance (here, used ironically)

aplomb—skill or dexterity

1. Explain the allusion on page 77.
2. Explain the comparison of Scheisskopf to King Lear.
3. On page 79, the narrator describes Yossarian's love for Dori Duz. Why does he love her? Compare this love to Yossarian's love for the chaplain.
4. What is Yossarian's opinion of the parade contest? What does this tell the reader about his suitability for the military?
5. What is tragic about Lt. Scheisskopf's mania for parades?
6. What does Clevinger learn at his trial?

Chapter 9: Major Major Major Major

Vocabulary

vanquished—totally defeated

desiccated—dried; withered

diligently—with careful determination

compliant—obedient

belligerent—hostile; aggressive

demean—to ridicule or scorn

gambling—carefree; frolicking

implacable—unable to be soothed

superfluous—extra

august—wise and dignified

photostats—enlarged photographic copies

garishly—loudly; gaudily

1. Explain the allusion on page 92.
2. Explain the play on words found on page 93.
3. How is the description of Major Major's father satirical?
4. Why do Major Major's elders feel such antipathy toward him?
5. Explain the allusion on page 96.

6. What imagery and diction are used to express the change wrought by Major Major's promotion to squadron commander?
7. How does the return of the C.I.D. investigator emphasize the theme of the book?
8. Explain the play on words on page 107.

Chapter 10: Wintergreen

Vocabulary

reverberating—echoing

formaldehyde—preservative used for bodies after death

sardonic—darkly sarcastic

charnel—a place to store the dead

1. Explain the first two sentences in this chapter.
2. Explain the third reference to Catch-22, found on page 115.
3. What is the rhetorical purpose of the curious case of Mudd?
4. What rhetorical devices are used to express the men's fear of the coming trip to Bologna on page 118?
5. What do Dr. Stubbs and Yossarian have in common?

Chapter 11: Captain Black

Vocabulary

stratagem—plan or tactic

cohorts—allies or sidekicks

innovation—a new way of thinking or acting

1. Explain why Captain Black takes such joy in the upcoming mission to Bologna.
2. What is ironic about the loyalty oath?
3. Explain the fourth reference to Catch-22, on page 124.
4. What is ironic about the way Major _____ de Coverley ends the Glorious Loyalty Oath Crusade?

Chapter 12: Bologna

Vocabulary

ruminate—to think or meditate

incubating—growing or maturing

macabre—grotesque; dark

wraiths—evil spirits

affront—an offense

vindictive—seeking revenge

exuberantly—joyfully

sibilant—hissing

ecstatically—with great happiness and excitement

ignominiously—without dignity or honor

emaciated—unhealthily skinny

1. How is repetition used on pages 129 and 130? What is the rhetorical effect?

Chapter 13: Major _____ de Coverley

Vocabulary

musette bag—small leather traveling bag

conjectured—guessed

peremptory—curtly commanding

vexatious—annoying or irritating

obsequious—obnoxiously respectful

excoriating—cutting or rough

contrite—guilty; sorry

flaccid—flabby

1. What is ironic about the general confusion as to Major _____ de Coverley's identity?
2. Why does Yossarian love the maid with the lime-colored panties?
3. What is the effect of the alliteration on page 147?
4. Why does Yossarian get a medal and a promotion?

Chapter 14: Kid Sampson

Vocabulary

insensate—incapable of perceiving through the senses

dolorously—suggestive of death or mourning

primeval—ancient, as in the first days of the earth

1. On the first page of this chapter, Yossarian is described as “brave.” How has his bravery changed?
2. What is the effect of the images of decay in the last paragraph of page 152 and on page 153? What literary term is represented when comparing the fungus and Yossarian?

Chapter 15: Piltchard & Wren

Vocabulary

reticently—not eager; hesitantly

ululating—loudly wailing or crying

gyrated—twisted and turned

orated—spoke with skill

1. How does the syntax in the first full paragraph on page 156 express narrative point of view?
2. What is the effect of comparing the sound of the engines to that of a “fat, lazy fly”? (Pg. 156)
3. How is Aarfy’s moral character hinted at in this chapter?
4. What images are used to describe the planes as they struggle to escape Bologna? What is the effect of those images?

Chapter 16: Luciana

Vocabulary

apprehensive—nervously worrying
vituperations—harshly abusive statements
libidinous—possessing a strong sex drive
slattern—promiscuous woman
fructified—enhanced or enlivened
ubiquitous—everywhere at once
lucrative—financially advantageous
unperjured—not yet betrayed

1. Describe the rapport that develops between Yossarian and Luciana.
2. What is the effect of the alliteration used to describe the girl in the orange satin blouse on page 165?
3. How is Aarfy's attempt to improve the girl in the orange blouse morally used to foreshadow his actual depravity?
4. How are Yossarian's feelings for Luciana the fifth appearance of Catch-22 in the story?
5. Why does Yossarian have sex with the maid in the lime-colored panties at the end of the chapter?

Vocabulary

solicitous—attentive to duty

1. What is the effect of the personification of Death on pages 175 and 176?
2. What is the effect of the repetition the paragraph that begins, “They didn’t take it...” on page 176?
3. Why does Yossarian hate Nurse Cramer?
4. What is the effect of the alliteration and repetition on page 182?
5. Explain the sixth appearance of Catch-22, on page 184.

Chapter 18: The Soldier Who Saw Everything Twice

Vocabulary

oscillating—swinging back and forth like a pendulum

quarantined—isolated to control the spread of disease

sententiously—pompously

scatological—focused on the excretory functions

halcyon—beautiful in memory

insouciantly—without respect; cockily

daguerreotype—a photograph made on metal with a light-sensitive silver coating

sere—withered or dry

iniquitous—sinful

gruesome—awful or disgusting

tumid—swollen or bulging

1. What is the effect of the reference to the *Oedipus* story on page 186?
2. What is the significance of the soldier who sees everything twice?
3. What are the cynical elements of Yossarian's encounter with the family coming to see another soldier?

Chapter 19: Colonel Cathcart

Vocabulary

impervious–immune

foppish–snobby in a silly way

adroitly–skillfully

debonair–suave or smooth

indefatigable–untiring

sarcophagus–casket

vicissitudes–sudden, unexpected changes

laudatory–worthy of praise

cumbersome–clumsy or burdensome

requisition–order; call up

brazenly–boldly

1. How is juxtaposition used to express the paradox that is Colonel Cathcart?
2. Explain the implications of referring to Colonel Cathcart as “his own sarcophagus.” (Pg. 198)
3. Compare and contrast Colonel Cathcart to Yossarian.
4. How does Colonel Cathcart demonstrate an absolute ignorance about matters of faith?

Chapter 20: Corporal Whitcomb

Vocabulary

petrified—frozen with fear

disparagingly—scornfully or with disrespect

liaison—contact or communication

rancor—anger or wrath

germinated—sprouted; grew

truculently—in a hostile or violent manner

dispel—to eliminate

malaise—listlessness or depression

1. What is the purpose of the chaplain's isolation?
2. Explain Corporal Whitcomb's behavior toward the chaplain.

Chapter 21: General Dreedle

Vocabulary

execrable—worthy of hatred

reverence—respect; honor

coalesced—solidified

succulent—juicy; appealing

intransigent—stubborn or obstinate

quell—to make quiet or subdue

incredulously—in disbelief

vacillating—hesitating

simpering—smiling prissily

effulgently—brightly

1. What can the reader learn about Colonel Cathcart from his “mature and systematic evaluation of the entire military situation”? (Pg. 222)
2. How is General Dreedle’s position in the army an example of dramatic irony?
3. What impression does the reader get from the description of General Dreedle’s nurse, and how does word choice contribute?
4. Summarize General Dreedle’s method of managing his subordinates.
5. Explain Yossarian’s love for the general’s nurse.
6. Why do the other men in the room echo Yossarian’s depraved moaning?
7. How does Colonel Korn’s speech to the men have ironic consequences?

Chapter 22: Milo the Mayor

Vocabulary

abatement—reduction

virile—strong in a masculine way

hangdog—depressed or disappointed

gesticulating—wildly gesturing

galvanic—having the effect of an electric shock

concupiscent—sexual

1. Why does Dobbs ask for Yossarian's help in murdering Colonel Cathcart?
2. Why is the reader told about the absurd number of titles and honors that Milo has garnered throughout the Middle East and Africa?

Chapter 23: Nately's Old Man

Vocabulary

connoisseur—an experienced appraiser
corpulent—fat or fleshy
rubicund—rosy or ruddy
resplendent—dazzling or brilliant
caustic—harsh; grating
cornucopia—a scene of plenty; treasure-store
lasciviously—with sexual thoughts
captious—looking for errors or mistakes
cataleptic—sitting rigidly, without response to external stimuli
calumnies—lies or untruths
lissome—flexible or limber
coquettishly—flirtatiously
befuddlement—confusion
fascist—one who believes in totalitarian or dictatorial government
parody—mocking or satirical portrait
sacrilegious—intentionally offensive about religious matters

1. How does Aarfy's attitude toward the three prostitutes foreshadow coming events?
2. Nately becomes irate when the old man suggests that America will not last forever, and that it is better to lose a war than to win one; the narrator terms the old man a "sly and sinful assailant" spewing out "obnoxious calumnies." (Pg. 254) Why does Nately consider the old man sinful, and in what way are the old man's statements untrue?
3. Why does the old man choose an American Beauty rose to throw at Major _____ de Coverley, and an edelweiss for the German *Oberstleutnant*?
4. Why does the old man remind Nately of his father?

Chapter 24: Milo

Vocabulary

argosies—sources or supplies; treasure stocks

ersatz—an imitation

phlegmatic—calm or unemotional

visage—facial expression

fustian—pompous or self-serving

flotsam—floating garbage

hauteur—arrogance

1. Explain the reversal of a cliché in the first paragraph of this chapter.
2. Why does Milo have his mechanics repaint the borrowed planes?
3. How does Milo avoid bankruptcy?
4. After Snowden's death, why doesn't Yossarian want to wear any clothes?
5. Why is it ironic that Milo wants to feed the soldiers chocolate-covered cotton?

Chapter 25: The Chaplain

Vocabulary

annals—historical records

infinitesimal—too small to measure

coactive—working together at the same time

reveries—daydreams

mutinous—rebellious

cadaverous—resembling a corpse

ulcerated—eaten away

hirsute—hairy

amicably—in a friendly way

capitulate—to surrender

1. What is one possible metaphorical significance of the black thread that Sgt. Whitcomb is using to sew his patch on his uniform?
2. What is ironically humorous about this statement from Colonel Cathcart: “He says you’ve got no initiative either. You’re not going to disagree with me, are you?”(Pg. 291)
3. Where does the chaplain find encouragement to continue in his religious faith?

Chapter 26: Aarfy

Vocabulary

covertly—secretly

satiated—satisfied; full

vacuous—empty; vacant

recalcitrant—stubborn

trollops—promiscuous women

sanctimonious—self-righteous; overly pious

1. Contrast Nately and Aarfy's definitions of true love.
2. Explain why Nurse Cramer is so upset with Yossarian, even before he tells her to go away.

Chapter 27: Nurse Duckett

Vocabulary

fulcrum—a point of balance

plaintively—with a whiny tone

assuage—to calm or relieve

furtive—secret

keening—crying or whining

redolent—with a strong odor

1. Why does Yossarian sexually assault Nurse Duckett?
2. How do Yossarian and Dunbar avoid accountability for their attack on the nurse?
3. In what ways is Major Sanderson used to make fun of psychoanalysis?
4. Major Sanderson thinks that Yossarian should be “taken outside and shot.” (Pg. 309) How is this both similar to and different from General Dreedle’s order to shoot Major Danby?
5. What is the role and significance of the mysterious Anthony F. Fortiori? Explain the situational irony of Sanderson’s thinking.
6. What is the one problem that Major Sanderson finds with Yossarian that makes him crazy?

Chapter 28: Dobbs

Vocabulary

parturition—birth

sedulously—without stopping

stertorous –snoring heavily

1. Explain Dobbs' change of heart about killing Colonel Cathcart.
2. What is ironic about Yossarian's patronizing concern for Orr?
3. Explain the effect of the diction in Yossarian's fantasy about the countess and her daughter-in-law on page 325.

Chapter 29: Peckem

Vocabulary

myopic—nearsighted

augmenting—enhancing or enlarging

turgid—filled; inflated; swollen

stringent—strict

erudite—scholarly

apothegms—short, witty, instructive sayings

loquacity—talkativeness

souse—a drunkard

peroration—conclusion of a speech

1. Why does General Peckem feel that “his polish just [isn’t] getting across”? (Pg. 330)
2. Explain why General Peckem seems to enjoy creating disharmony among his subordinates.
3. Explain Colonel Korn’s treatment of Havermeyer in the briefing.
4. What is ridiculous about the strategy of this particular bombing mission?

Chapter 30: Dunbar

Vocabulary

vapid—airheaded; empty

incorrigible—shameless

callipygous—having perfectly proportioned buttocks

reproving—chastising or correcting

truncated—cut off

viscous—thick

1. What kind of relationship does Yossarian have with Nurse Duckett in this chapter?
2. What is the farcical element of McWatt's suicide?

Chapter 31: Mrs. Daneeka

Vocabulary

pullulating—breeding quickly and abundantly

compunction—sharp guilt

comply—obey

1. What humorous elements contribute to the farce of Doc Daneeka's "death"?

Chapter 32: Yo-Yo's Roomies

Vocabulary

moldering—decaying or rotting

obtuse—stupid

cronies—sidekicks or buddies

calcareous—chalky

1. What is the effect of the simile describing Kid Sampson's amputated legs?
2. Why does Yossarian have such antipathy toward his new roommates?

Chapter 33: Nately's Whore

Vocabulary

transmogrified—radically changed or metamorphosed

1. Explain the significance of Yossarian's sexual escapades in Rome.
2. Why does Nately's whore finally fall in love with him? What changes does this make within Nately? Do these changes actually make him crazy, as all the other characters seem to say?

Chapter 34: Thanksgiving

Vocabulary

insatiably—inability to be satisfied

saturnalia—a party designed to fulfill the sensual urges

obstreperously—loudly disobedient

1. Explain the play on words regarding the chaplain's decision to lie his way into the hospital.
2. Why does Dunbar vanish?

Chapter 35: Milo the Militant

Vocabulary

complacent—self-satisfied or smug

1. What is the effect of the imagery describing the planes on page 387?

Chapter 36: The Cellar

Vocabulary

chirruped—made a joyful noise

1. Contrast the chaplain's and Sergeant Whitcomb's responses to the losses in Dobbs' plane.
2. What is the irony of choosing this point in time to interrogate the chaplain?
3. What sentence best encapsulates the farce of the chaplain's interrogation?

Chapter 37: General Scheisskopf

1. What is ironic about General Peckem's appointment as wing commander?

Chapter 38: Kid Sister

Vocabulary

depraved—totally given over to sinful urges

subterfuge—a trick

1. Explain the allusion on page 403.
2. Why is Nately's whore obsessed with killing Yossarian?
3. Why are so many different people, including the gung-ho Havermeyer and Appleby, coming up to Yossarian in the dark now that he is openly rebelling against orders?

Chapter 39: The Eternal City

Vocabulary

ecclesiastical—having to do with religion or the church

surrealistic—like a strange dream

catatonic—in a trance

pugnaciously—with a fighting attitude

evocative—expressive

dulcet—pleasing to the ear

genial—kind or friendly

1. What is “The Eternal City” a reference to?
2. What is the seventh, and most outrageous, manifestation of Catch-22?
3. What imagery is used to show the twisted depravity of the materialistic state?
4. What is the symbolism of the Allied soldier having convulsions?
5. Explain the allusion on page 425.
6. What is the significance of the fact that Yossarian keeps tripping over evidence of brutality (broken teeth, the feet of a woman) as he walks through the streets?

7. What solace does Yossarian ultimately decide to seek to help him put the brutality out of his mind?

8. How is suspense built and increased between Yossarian's arrest and his arrival in Colonel Cathcart's office? What happens to this suspense?

Chapter 40: Catch-22

Vocabulary

insouciant—unconcerned; careless

despicable—disgusting

rancor—bitter anger

sauntered—strutted

1. Contrast the approaches that Colonel Korn and Colonel Cathcart take toward Yossarian.

2. What is the deal that Colonel Cathcart and Colonel Korn offer to Yossarian? What happens at the very end of the chapter?

Chapter 41: Snowden

Vocabulary

cloying—sweet in a sickening way

malignant—with evil intention

mottled—spotted with different colors

1. What unusual combination of smells is used to express the ambiguity of Yossarian's situation?

2. What is the significance of the "strange man with a mean face" who keeps showing up and telling Yossarian, "We've got your pal, buddy. We've got your pal." (Pg. 442)

3. What is the "official" story of Yossarian's injury?

4. What is the most dramatic literary device used during the operation on Yossarian and during his time in the plane trying to save Snowden?

5. Explain the allusion found in the reading of Snowden's "entrails." (Pg. 450)

Vocabulary

wistfully—sadly or regretfully

1. At the beginning of the chapter, Yossarian has decided to renege on his deal with the colonels. What unforeseen consequence does Major Danby warn him about?

3. Explain whether you think that Yossarian is a coward or a hero for deserting and following Orr to Sweden.

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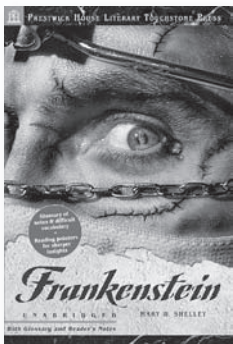
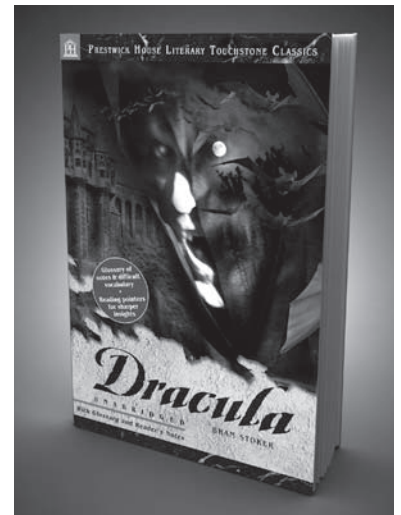
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