

CATCH-22 Study Guide

Chapter 1: The Texan

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

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?

Chapter 3: Havermeyer

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

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

Chapter 5: Chief White Halfoat

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chapter 13: Major _____ de Coverley

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

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?
3. What literary term is represented when comparing the fungus and Yossarian?

Chapter 15: Piltchard & Wren

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

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?

Chapter 17: The Soldier in White

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 itY" 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

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

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

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

Chapter 21: General Dreedle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chapter 32: Yo-Yo's Roomies

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

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

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

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

Chapter 36: The Cellar

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

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

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

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

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)

Chapter 42: Yossarian

1. At the beginning of the chapter, Yossarian has decided to renege on his deal with the colonels.
2. What unforeseen consequence does Major Danby warn him about?
3. Why has Yossarian lost the ability to believe in the ideals of patriotism?
4. Explain whether you think that Yossarian is a coward or a hero for deserting and following Orr to Sweden.