**“The Bell Jar” Chapter Questions 13-End**

**Chapter 13**

1. Describe the role Esther believes her mother had in her invitation to the beach. Is Esther somehow seeing her mother as detrimental to her own well-being? (compare this to the story of the boy with the brain disease and how his mother debates whether to kill him)
2. Describe Esther’s two attempts to kill herself in this chapter. What prevents her from being successful?
3. Esther’s visit to her father’s grave may well be the dramatic climax of the novel and reflect her relentless search for *father,* which ends here. Esther implies that she blames herself for “years of neglect.” But who has neglected whom? She blames herself for not visiting his grave and tending it, but she also undoubtedly feels that her father’s death has been the ultimate abandonment. Consult Plath’s poem “Daddy” and compare feelings of abandonment.

**Chapter 14**

1. Where does Esther wake up at the start of this chapter?
2. Whose visit to her hospital room angers Esther?
3. What does Esther do that gets her transferred to another hospital?
4. What does Mrs. Tomollilo do that gets her placed in the Psychiatric ward?
5. What does Mrs. Mole do that makes the nurses put her in her room for dinner?
6. What treasure does Esther take with her to solitary confinement?

**Chapter 15**

1. Who “rescues” Esther from the public hospital?
2. Who is Esther’s doctor at the private hospital?
3. Why does Esther dislike Dr. Gordon?
4. What is unusual about Miss Norris?
5. Why does Valerie have scars on her head?
6. Who is Esther’s next door neighbor in the hospital once her room is moved “up front”?
7. Mrs. Plath contended that the “bell jar” of madness distorts Esther’s perceptions and causes her to spurn kindness and misinterpret good will as manipulation and such. Can we connect this to Esther’s treatment of her mother and of Philomena Guinea? Explain.

**Chapter 16**

1. What led Joan to run away from home?
2. What course of treatment does Joan’s first psychiatrist recommend for her?
3. How does Esther learn of the circumstances that led to her rescue from the basement?
4. Why does Dr. Nolan restrict Esther’s visitors?
5. Why does Esther’s mother bring her roses?
6. What does Mrs. Bannister discover about Esther one evening?

**Chapter 17**

1. Why is Esther surprised when the nurse tells her she is moving to Belsize?
2. What is NOT a privilege given to residents of Belsize?
3. How do the women in Belsize know they will be having shock treatments?
4. What does Joan find in a magazine that shocks Esther?
5. What does Esther always have with her as she walks around Belsize?
6. Why does Dr. Nolan arrive early at Esther’s room one day?

**Chapter 18**

1. According to Dr. Nolan, how often will Esther need to have shock treatments?
2. Who do Esther and Joan both get letters from?
3. Why did Joan say she dated Buddy?
4. Who is Joan having an affair with at the asylum?
5. What trait does Dr. Nolan say women find attractive in each other?
6. What sort of doctor does Dr. Nolan refer to Esther to?

**Chapter 19**

1. What field does Joan tell Esther she plans on studying when she returns to college?
2. Who is Joan planning on living with when she leaves the asylum?
3. Who does Esther meet at the Widener Library?
4. What happens to Esther after having sex with Irwin?
5. Where does Esther have Irwin drive her to?
6. Why does Dr. Quinn visit Esther late one night?

**Chapter 20**

1. Why does Buddy Willard visit Esther in the asylum?
2. What concern about her future does Buddy express to Esther?
3. Why does Esther contact Irwin?
4. What does Esther do to pay tribute to Joan?
5. What does Esther wear to her exit hearing at the asylum?
6. Where will Esther live after leaving the asylum?