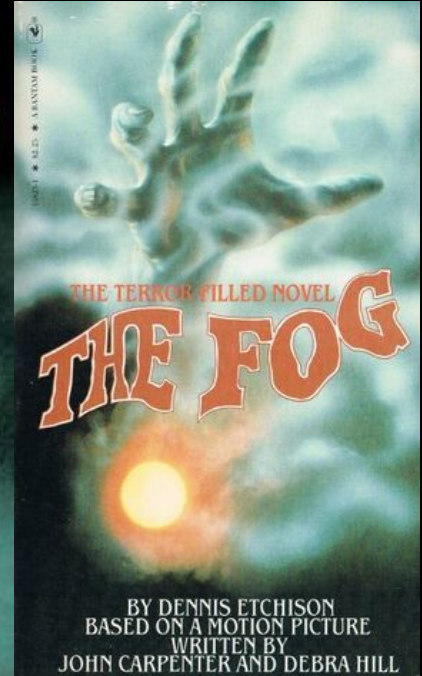
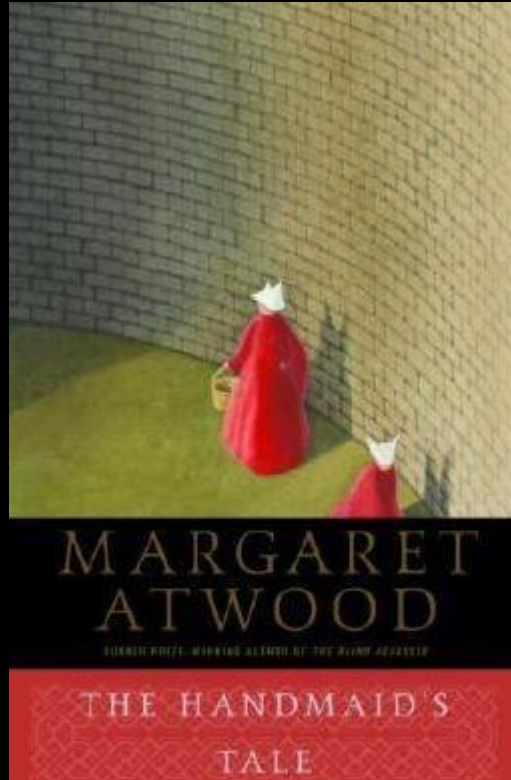


# What The Fog?

Kaitlyn, Shereelyn, Sophia

# Fog in Literature



What does The Fog Represent?

## Some Quotes

“About the only time we get any letup from this time control is in the fog; then time doesn’t mean anything.” (78)

“And instead of fog sometimes she’ll let out a clear chemical gas in through the vents,” (77)

“A bluetick hound bays out there in the fog, running scared and lost because he can’t see” (7).

“When the fog clears... I remember they took me out of the shaving room and locked me in Seclusion,” (9).

# Our Claim

Ken Kesey uses the symbolism of the Fog in The Cuckoo's Nest to represent something, but the interpretation is left up to the reader based on evidence in the story.



# Our Theories

- The fog represents lack of power
- The fog was never real
- The fog is fought with treatment
- The fog IS the treatment
- The fog represents confinement



# 1. The Fog Represents Lack of Power

Shaving scene gave power to those who “controlled” the Fog

Control of society strips away human dignity.

1. “They start the fog machine again and it’s snowing down cold and white all over me... They hold me down while she jams a wicker bag and all into my mouth and shoves it down with a mop handle,” (7)

# 1. The Fog Represents Lack of Power Continued

2. “I know how they work it, the fog machine.” (130)

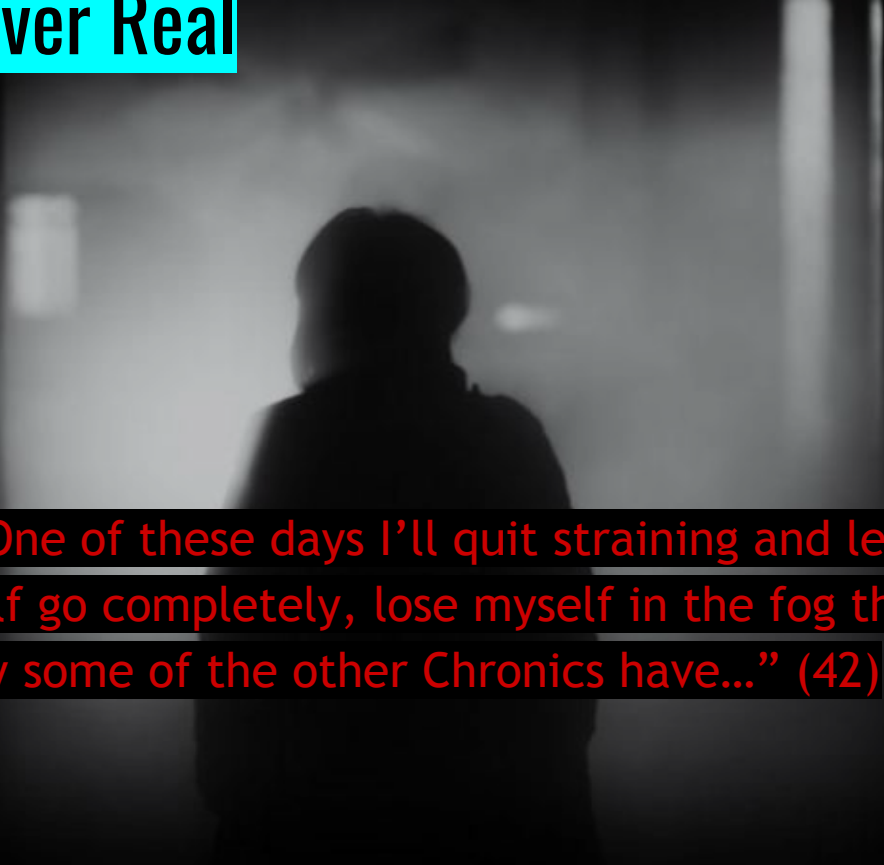
3. “When the fog clears... I remember the took me out of the shaving room and locked me in Seclusion,” (9).

Fog only seems to disappear when authority is challenged





## 2. The Fog Was Never Real

A black and white photograph showing the silhouette of a person standing in a hallway. The hallway is filled with a thick, white fog that obscures the details of the walls and floor. The person is positioned in the center of the frame, facing away from the camera. The lighting is soft and diffused, creating a moody and atmospheric scene.

4. “One of these days I’ll quit straining and let myself go completely, lose myself in the fog the way some of the other Chronicles have...” (42)

### 3. The Fog is fought with treatment

5. “Put your troubled mind at ease,  
my friend.” (164)

6. “It’s fogging a little, but I won’t  
slip and hide in it.” (241)

Electrotherapy occasionally fends off  
the fog.



## 4. The Fog IS the Treatment



7. “Nobody complains about all of the fog. I know why, now: as bad as it is, you can slip back into it and feel safe.” (128)

8. “They got enough of those things they call pills down me...” (14)

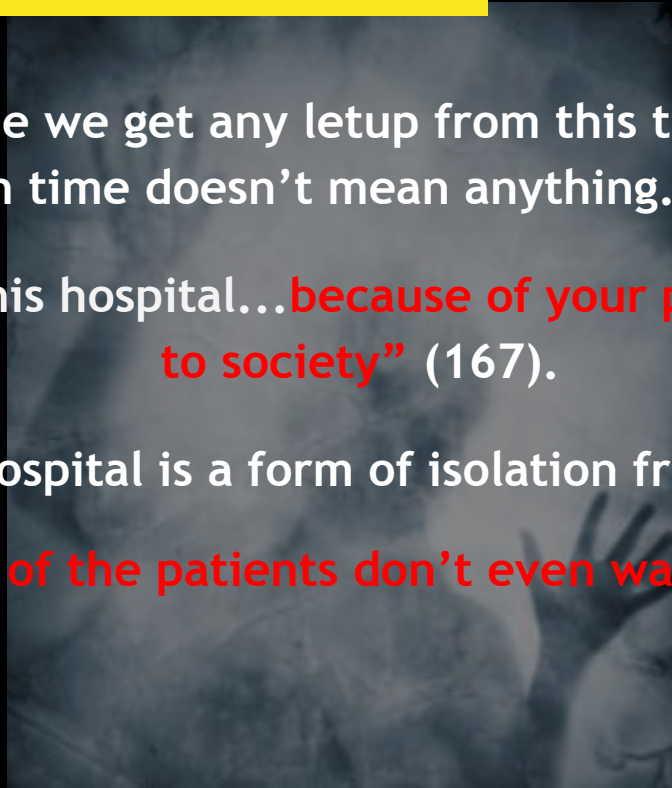
The fog disappears at times after medications.

## 5. The Fog Represents Confinement

9. “About the only time we get any letup from this time control is in the fog; then time doesn’t mean anything.” (78)
10. “You men are in this hospital...because of your proven inability to adjust to society” (167).

At times, the hospital is a form of isolation from the outside...

But some of the patients don't even want to leave.



Ken Kesey uses the symbolism of the Fog in The Cuckoo's Nest to represent something, but the interpretation is left up to the reader based on evidence in the story.

**No Theory is Wrong**

# Our Resources

<https://www.litcharts.com/lit/one-flew-over-the-cuckoo-s-nest/symbols/fog>

<https://www.shmoop.com/one-flew-over-cuckoos-nest/fog-symbol.html>