Opinion: *Catch-22* is an excellent novel and easily makes it onto my mental list of the best books I have read. The comedic absurdity of the first portion was uproariously funny. I absolutely loved the way that Heller wrote and the clever paradoxes he created, but at the same time I appreciated the social criticism he generated with his darker humor in the second portion of the novel. By utilising both styles of humor, Heller both entertains the reader and also gives the novel a feeling of purpose with his criticism. Heller culminated the entire novel of devilish satiralia with a clever cliffhanger that tied several loose ends together and left me feeling in high spirits and also eager to hear more of Yossarian's exploits. I would definitely recommend *Catch-22*, but only to certain readers whom I will identify more specifically next.

Recommendations and Similarities: I would only recommend *Catch-22* to someone who enjoys satirical comedy or writing that contains an underlying theme of social criticism. Someone who usually reads vampire romance novels is unlikely to find a keen interest in the dry and dark humor that Heller utilizes, while someone well-versed in the likes of Kurt Vonnegut and Jonathan Swift would likely find it much more engaging and entertaining. On a similar note, the works of Kurt Vonnegut and Jonathan Swift argue that many similarities to *Catch-22*. In *Slaughterhouse-Five*, Vonnegut presents similar criticisms of wartime decisions and techniques, just as in *A Modest Proposal*, Jonathan Swift’s “modest” proposal involves selling children for food. This kind of absurdity is very similar to that present in Heller’s writing, especially in the first portion of *Catch-22*. While readers were often seeing parallels between the traditions in mind of the novel and the 1977 film, “Full Metal Jacket”. Similar to *Catch-22*, “Full Metal Jacket” begins rather light-hearly with lots of camaraderie and humorous hardships, but the ravages of war and its demanding conditions turn the military quickly affected the soldiers and the movie takes a much darker turn into a brutal depiction of war.

Personal Experience: *Catch-22* was a very difficult book for me to relate to given the setting, age of the characters, and the depraved manner in which they conducted themselves. I also have never experienced a truly hopeless paradox like *Catch-22* so it is difficult to understand the feelings of exasperation and frustration that come with it. I was able to relate to the basic emotions that Yossarian and the other characters experienced such as fear, happiness, sadness, disappointment, and surprise, but not under the same circumstances they experienced them. When I feel fear it is not because people are trying to shoot me out of the sky. It is important to mention that my trouble relating to the characters and their undertakings did very little to diminish my overall enjoyment of the novel. Just by being able to encounter the same situations in reading as the characters allowed me, to a certain degree, to experience the same emotions they did.

Summary: The novel follows the exploits of the men and women at a WWII base in Pianosa, Italy. It centers around the gutless, malingering bombardier Yossarian who struggles to stay a live in an environment festering with insanity and contradictions. Yossarian proves to be a constant thorn in the side of the incompetent, power-hungry military leadership and an ally to the struggles of many of the enlisted men. As the novel progresses, Yossarian undergoes a visible progression, slowly becoming less and less inclined to continue flying missions until his lack of motivation finally culminates in a moment of genuine clarity and an ambitious decision.