Pavlov's Dog: Worksheet

For each of the scenarios below, please identify the unconditioned stimulus (UCS), unconditioned response (UCR), conditioned stimulus (CS), and conditioned response (CR).

A pair of psychologists decide that they want to try a rather cruel experiment on their young son. The father sits by the son and shows him a picture of a butterfly. Immediately afterwards, the mother (who is standing in the kitchen) will bang a pot very loudly. The child jerks back at the loud noise out of instinct. After repeating this a few times, the father escorts his son out to the backyard, where butterflies frequently land on their flower bushes. At the sight of one of these butterflies, the child jerks back.

UCS:
UCR:
CS:
CR:
You arrive at a Halloween party that's just getting started and notice that the whole house is decorated to a very spooky theme. You settle down right next to an old record player that currently isn't blasting any music. Soon enough, the party host - who's dressed in a fairy costume and is wearing a very strong lavender perfume - walks by you to put "Monster Mash" on. The sound of "Monster Mash" always gives you goosebumps. The thing is, the needle on the record player keeps needing to be reset in order to loop the song, so whenever the music temporarily stops, the party host will walk by you to fix it, and you smell that lavender perfume again and again. The week after the party, you're at Yankee Candle when you suddenly smell a lavender candle and you break out in goosebumps.
UCS:
UCR:
CS:



Pavlov's Dog Experiment: For Whom The Bell Tolls

CR:

Pumpkin the cat is not a fan of loud noises, much like most humans. Today is just not Pumpkin's day - there's a heavy storm rolling in, promising lots of thunder. Pumpkin is currently sitting on a couch cushion, curiously watching the sky through the window just as a bright flash of light splits the air. A few seconds later, Pumpkin hears a loud, rumbling crack that makes her bury her head under the couch pillows. A little while later, she bravely peeks up to watch the sky again. This time, when she sees another streak of light cut through the sky, she immediately buries her head back into the pillows.

UCS:			
UCR:			
cs:			
CR:			

An alcoholic is trying to recover from his addiction to alcohol. His doctor prescribes him a harmless medication that can immediately cause temporary nausea. Every single day, the doctor instructs his patient to look at a bottle of wine and then quickly take one of the nausea-inducing pills in order for his brain to make the unpleasant connection between the sight of a bottle of alcohol and immediate nausea. A couple weeks later, the patient reports to his doctor that he's cleared all the alcohol bottles out of his house because even accidentally glancing at them makes him want to throw up.

UCS:	
UCR:	
CS:	
CR:	