



**Social Studies
School Service**

www.socialstudies.com

Downloadable Reproducible eBooks

Thank you for purchasing this eBook from
www.socialstudies.com or www.writingco.com.

To browse more eBook titles, visit
<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebooks.html>

To learn more about eBooks, visit our help page at
<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebookshelp.html>

For questions, please e-mail eBooks@socialstudies.com

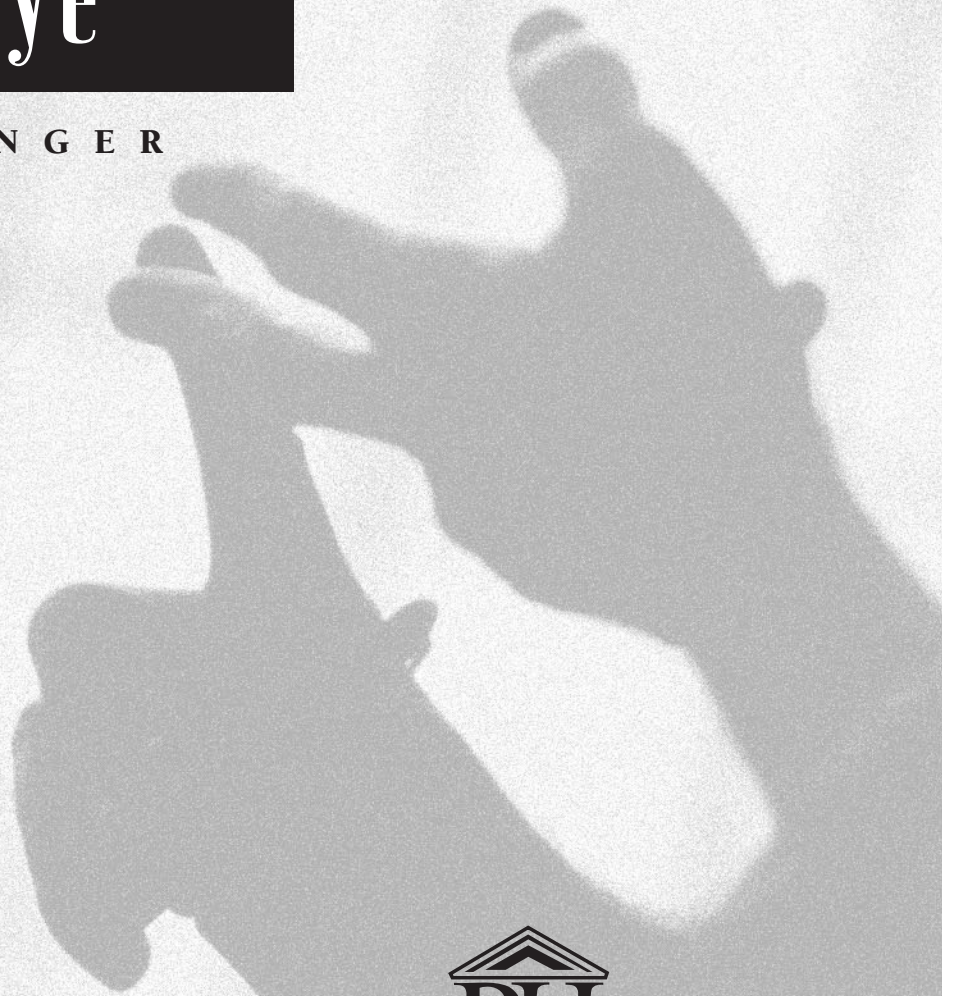
Free E-mail Newsletter—Sign up Today!

To learn about new eBook and print titles, professional development resources, and catalogs in the mail, sign up for our monthly e-mail newsletter at
<http://socialstudies.com/newsletter/>

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PACKET/TEACHING UNIT

The Catcher in the Rye

J. D. SALINGER



PRESTWICK HOUSE
INCORPORATED

REORDER NO. TU5

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

The Catcher in the Rye

by J.D. Salinger

Copyright © 1985 by Prestwick House Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938. 1-800-932-4593.
www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her
personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale. Revised April 2000.

ISBN 10: 1-58049-010-7
ISBN 13: 978-1-58049-010-8
Reorder No. 300168

The Catcher In The Rye

OBJECTIVES

By the time this unit is completed, the student will be able to:

1. discuss why this book uses interior monologue and comment on how the style of this book reflects the mind and speech of a sixteen-year-old youth.
2. arrive at a conclusion as to what type of personality Holden has and support this conclusion with references to the text.
3. state why this novel is, or is not, a good example of a “rite of passage” novel.
4. identify and discuss the qualities in this novel that have made it so popular with readers for almost forty years.
5. define and give examples from the novel of the following literary terms.
 - synecdoche
 - metonymy
 - verisimilitude
 - simile
 - irony
 - flashback
 - foil
 - hyperbole
 - digression
6. formulate at least one statement of theme that takes into account the title of the novel, the incidents the title refers to, and the actions of Holden throughout the story.

Note: All references come from the Little, Brown edition of *The Catcher In The Rye*, copyright 1951.

Throughout the novel, Salinger has Holden Caulfield speaking to the reader in an informal, adolescent tone. As a result, there is frequent profanity. In addition, near the middle of the book a scene with a prostitute is described, but no sex occurs. The denigrating euphemism for homosexual, “flit,” is also used on various occasions.

The Catcher In The Rye

Terms and Definitions

Digression – an interruption of the main action, accomplished by telling stories unrelated to the main plot. This serves to provide background information, explain character motivation, establish interest, build suspense, and inform the reader of the action to come.

Flashback - a scene that interrupts the ongoing action in a story to show an event that happened earlier.

Foil - a character whose qualities or actions usually serve to emphasize the actions or qualities of the main character, the protagonist, by providing a strong contrast. On occasion, the foil is used as a contrast to a character other than the main one.

Hyperbole - exaggeration for emphasis; overstatement. Example: I've told you a million times to...

Irony - a subtle, sometimes humorous perception of inconsistency in which the significance of a statement or event is changed by its content. For example: the firehouse burned down.

Metonymy - the use of a related item to stand for the thing being discussed. Example: "The White House said yesterday..." means the government of the United States, the President, or the Administration.

Simile - a comparison between two different things using either *like* or *as*. Example: I am as hungry as a horse.

Synecdoche – using a part of something to stand for the entire thing. Example: "I spoke to Big Mouth yesterday."

The Catcher In The Rye

Questions for Essay or Discussion

1. At the conclusion of this novel, do you think Holden's emotional condition has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed the same?
2. Since its publication as a novel in 1951, this book has been very popular with high school students. Identify three or four elements in this book that account for its popularity.
3. This novel has as its protagonist a young boy who goes to private schools in the 1940's. Is this novel relevant to the youth of today, or has it outlived its period and has little to say to today's adolescents? Adopt a point of view in response to this idea, and support your answer.
4. To what extent is the novel a good example of a "rite of passage" novel?
5. Holden Caulfield is an alienated youth. Identify who it is that he is alienated from, and discuss why he is alienated.
6. What gives this novel its distinctive style? Comment on how the style of this novel is different from the style of other novels.
7. A major theme in this novel is "loss of innocence." Cite those incidents in the novel that support this point; also cite the significance of the title and show how it relates to the theme.
8. Pick any two strangers Holden meets throughout the book. Describe how he deals with them. Compare and contrast his treatment of them with the way he treats people he actually knows.

Additional Exercise

1. Keep a journal that covers a three-day period in some depth. While the experiences reported on should be yours, the style of reporting should be that of Holden Caulfield; that is, you should try to write your journal the way Holden might have written. You should consider both style and observations.

The Catcher In The Rye

Test

I. Multiple Choice

1. After Holden loses the fencing equipment, he says the fencing team
 - A. “ostracized the hell out of me.”
 - B. “were a lousy bunch of phonies anyway.”
 - C. “decided to go shopping in New York instead.”
 - D. “told me to cheer up, because I was depressed as hell.”
 - E. “didn’t want to put up any fences anyway.”

2. The title refers to Holden’s wish to
 - A. imitate the Scottish poet Robert Burns.
 - B. run away and work on a farm.
 - C. protect children from dangerous situations.
 - D. write stories like his brother D.B.
 - E. get a spot on the school baseball team.

3. The main reason Holden says he likes the Museum of Natural History is
 - A. it never changes.
 - B. it is always full of children.
 - C. there are no phonies there.
 - D. because he learned all about Egyptians there.
 - E. Both B and C.

4. Holden says he gets a kick out of the way Jane Gallagher plays checkers because she
 - A. lets Holden win most of the time.
 - B. flirts while he plays.
 - C. is a poor sport, and if she loses, she pouts.
 - D. plays like Allie, smart and decisive.
 - E. keeps her kings in the back row.

5. Holden’s desire to protect children and other creatures
 - A. forces him to live like a hermit.
 - B. gets him kicked out of Pencey Prep.
 - C. is shown in his concern for the ducks.
 - D. is passed to him by his father.
 - E. is completely lost by the end of the book.

6. Phoebe stops Holden from leaving by
 - A. insisting he take her with him.
 - B. telling her parents about his plan.
 - C. telling Mr. Antolini about Holden's plan.
 - D. taking her money back.
 - E. getting Carl Luce to talk him out of it.

7. Holden uses the phrase "giving someone the time" to refer to
 - A. kidding someone.
 - B. going to the movies.
 - C. having sex.
 - D. lying about someone.
 - E. getting kicked out of school.

8. Holden writes an essay about Allie's baseball glove
 - A. as a favor to Ackley.
 - B. because he misses Allie.
 - C. as an assignment for Mr. Spencer.
 - D. as a favor to Stradlater.
 - E. to chase away his depression.

9. Holden is upset with D.B. because he
 - A. always borrows things and never returns them.
 - B. thinks he is "so great."
 - C. is a cruel and vicious person.
 - D. starts writing movies in Hollywood.
 - E. awakes one night to find D.B. patting him on the head.

10. At the end of this novel, Holden experiences a change in mood as he watches Phoebe
 - A. feed fish to the sea lions.
 - B. swing high and fast in the park swing.
 - C. go around and around on the carousel.
 - D. drag her suitcase across the street.
 - E. act in her school play.

II. Matching (*Choose the statement which best identifies the character*)

- | | | |
|--------------------|----|---|
| 11. Sally Hayes | A. | is a secret slob |
| 12. Jane Gallagher | B. | is Holden's older sibling |
| 13. Phoebe | C. | dies of leukemia |
| 14. Stradlater | D. | drinks too much and marries an older woman |
| 15. Ackley | E. | lived next door to Holden one summer |
| 16. D.B. | F. | loans Holden money that had been put aside for Christmas |
| 17. Allie | G. | gets very upset with Holden when he uses the phrase "a total pain in the ass" |
| 18. Mr. Spencer | H. | has a disagreeable habit of squeezing pimples in public |
| 19. Mr. Antolini | I. | is a bell hop who asks Holden if he is "Innarested in having a good time?" |
| 20. Maurice | J. | wears a ratty, old bathrobe and has a bumpy chest and old, funny legs |

III. Essay Questions

1. The style in this book is quite distinctive. After considering the following points, write an essay in which you discuss the style found in this novel.
 - A. Who is narrating this story?
 - B. How has the choice of the narrator influenced the language in the book?
2. On a number of occasions in the novel, Holden tries to make human contact but fails. Identify at least four times in the novel that this occurs. Be sure to provide enough specific details about the incident you are citing to will prove you understand it.
3. In a well-developed essay, state why this novel is, or is not, a good example of a "rite of passage" novel.
4. Some critics suggest that Holden's problem is that he is too sensitive and that he is unable to deal with the pain and ugliness of modern life. Others suggest that Holden is simply afraid of growing up. Choose one of these ideas and defend it, or come up with your own explanation of Holden's problems and support it with specific examples from the book.

The Catcher In The Rye

Test Answer Key

I. Multiple Choice

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | A | 6. | A |
| 2. | C | 7. | C |
| 3. | A | 8. | D |
| 4. | E | 9. | D |
| 5. | C | 10. | C |

II. Matching

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 11. | G | 16. | B |
| 12. | E | 17. | C |
| 13. | F | 18. | J |
| 14. | A | 19. | D |
| 15. | H | 20. | I |

The Catcher In The Rye

Answers for Essay Questions

1. Because the narrator in this novel is a seventeen-year old boy, the story is told in the language and manner that this boy and others would use. For this reason, it appears to be a rambling, interior monologue: “monologue” because only one person is speaking throughout the novel; “interior” because it is as if we were reading his mind as he reviews the events in the story to himself; “rambling” because he freely associates ideas and frequently digresses rather than telling the story in a strict sequential, unified manner.

For the most part, the vocabulary is simple because it is limited to those words that the average teenager might know. For the same reason, the language is sometimes direct and earthy because that is the way many teenagers think and speak. In addition, the sentences are usually not complicated; and the imagery, such as it is, is simple and direct.

2. A wide variety of answers would be acceptable. In some instances, Holden drives away people that he is trying to attract. Sally Hayes is a good example of this behavior. If Holden had not pushed so hard, perhaps he and Sally could have talked meaningfully. As it is, though, his intensity causes her to draw back, he calls her a name, and any potential relationship is over. Somewhat in the same manner, Holden alienates Carl Luce. In this instance, the intense, probing questions of Holden make Luce uncomfortable and eager to get away.

With other people, though, Holden does establish a channel of communication but then closes it down or breaks it off by withdrawing into himself. The conversation with the woman on the train, Mrs. Morrow, is a good example. In a different vein, one might also put Mr. Antolini in this group, although it might be argued that Holden’s reason for breaking off this conversation was quite justified.

3. A “rite of passage” novel has as its protagonist a young person who is relatively innocent at the beginning. Then, after experiencing a crisis or series of crises, which he or she struggles through, the person comes out of the experience with new insights and a new maturity.

From this point, answers could vary. While the point of Holden’s innocence at the opening might be debated, the fact that he undergoes a crisis in the ensuing days should be pointed out. At the end, however, whether he has learned anything or not and whether he matured, are again open for debate and could be discussed with either a pro or con viewpoint. On the basis of Chapter 25, one might argue that Holden has some insights and is maturing based on the incident at the carousel. On the other hand, basing it on Chapter 26 one might argue that Holden is still the same person with the defensive attitude who refuses to face the truth or make a commitment to his future.

4. Answers will vary.

The Catcher In The Rye

Study Guide Teacher's Copy

Chapter 1

Vocabulary

hemorrhage – uncontrolled bleeding

grippe – flu-like disease

ostracized – separated; excluded from society

1. Who is the narrator in this story, at what point in time is he telling the story, and where is he when he is telling the story?

A young man, Holden Caulfield, is the narrator, and he is telling of some events that happened to him during the previous Christmas. He is in some “crummy place” for a rest because he tells us that he has gotten run down (physically, maybe emotionally) and is now in a hospital or a tuberculosis sanitarium. (Pg. 1)

2. What kind of tone is established in the first paragraph, and how is it done?

The long rambling sentences, slang expressions, and free association of ideas suggest that the story will have a casual, irreverent tone. The stream-of-consciousness, interior monologue is in marked contrast to a straight expository approach which presents facts about people or setting.

3. What is it that Holden does not like about the Pencey Prep advertisement and about the headmaster, Thurmer?

The ad is false. There are not any horses “anywhere near” the school, and the school does not mold anyone. He calls Thurmer “a phony slob.” (Pgs. 2-3)

4. In the second full paragraph on page 4, why is Holden hanging around the cannon, freezing? What does this say about his personality?

He is trying to work up some feeling about leaving Pencey, so feelings are important to him; apparently, leaving is something that he has to work at in this instance, unlike before.

5. Find an example on page 4 of the narrator making a statement that is obviously false, which he expects the reader to believe. What do these repeated false statements tell you about Holden?

Answers may vary.

Example: "The more expensive a school is, the more crooks it has..." This comment has no basis in any reality except Holden's mind. It does, however, give the impression that he is either a person who has strong opinions, who lies outright, or who exaggerates.

Chapter 2

Vocabulary

innumerable – unable to be counted

qualm – worry, hesitation, uneasiness

1. Although Holden seems well-read, he continually leaves schools. Why?

Holden does not do well in school because he does not make any attempt to play the game that Dr. Thurmer and Mr. Spencer speak about. Caulfield has no interest in any subject other than English.

2. Holden stops in to say good-bye to old Spencer; and as he sits there, he gets more and more upset. Why?

Holden is a sensitive person who appears not to want to hurt Mr. Spencer's feelings, but Mr. Spencer seems to be completely insensitive to Holden's feelings. Spencer's habits, his bed, and his attitude all contribute to Holden's unease. Against Holden's wishes, he rehashes the test that they both know he failed.

3. How does Holden's reason for leaving Elkton Hills school further show that he is a sensitive person?

The headmaster at Elkton Hills School paid attention only to the attractive or fashionable parents and ignored the unattractive and unfashionable parents. This phony snobbishness really angers Holden. Holden claims that was the only reason he actually left the school.

Chapter 3

Vocabulary

compulsory - mandatory

chiffonier - dresser

foils – swords for fencing

falsetto – high pitched voice

1. How is it possible that despite Holden's statement in the first line of chapter 3, "I'm the most terrific liar you ever saw in your life," the reader believes nearly every thing he says?

The statement is intended to refer to Caulfield's obvious lie to Spencer about the gym; however, because Holden is confessional and non-self-serving in his depiction of himself and his failings, the reader believes the incidents in the book are presented truthfully.

2. Holden's understandings are false much of the time, but the basic ideas are correct. Find an example of this on page 16.

He describes Ossenburger as an undertaker who "probably just shoves them [the dead] in a sack and dumps them in a river." This is not based on any factual information other than Holden's imagination and dislike. The concept of Ossenburger being a "phony" and shallow, however, is accurate as Holden describes him.

3. Why does Holden think that Mr. Ossenburger is a phony?

Because Ossenburger talks about Jesus in a manner that Holden sees as being insincere, Holden regards Ossenburger as a phony.

4. What kind of person is Ackley, and how does Holden feel about him?

In his personal habits, Ackley is a slob; his personality, which is negative, grates on Holden. For these reasons, Ackley is something of an outcast; with all his faults, though, or maybe because of them, Holden can feel sorry for him.

5. Why does Ackley hate Stradlater? How does Holden feel about Stradlater?

Ackley, to begin with, "hated everybody's guts, damn near." (Pg. 19) Stradlater is everything Ackley is not, (rich, outgoing, generous) so Ackley says he is conceited. Holden defends Stradlater by saying that he is not a bad guy when a person gets to know him, but he does have a phony kind of friendliness. Holden, however, sees phoniness in nearly everyone

Chapter 4

1. Do the characters Mr. Spencer, Ackley, and Stradlater strike you as believable people? Do Holden's observations of them seem accurate or inaccurate? What method does Salinger use for Holden's description of people?

Most of us have, or will, encounter people like these characters. His observations about their personal habits, personality traits, and eccentricities seem correct and pointed; the actions of the characters do not contradict Holden's observations but do support his contentions. Holden's descriptions sometimes deal with minutia, which accurately reflect the characters. Stradlater, for example, has a razor that "was always rusty as hell and full of lather and hairs and crap." (Pg. 27)

Holden calls Stradlater a "secret slob." (Pg. 27) Ackley's teeth look "mossy and awful;" (Pg. 19) Spencer had a bumpy chest; even Caulfield himself has gray on one side of his head. The small detail makes the entire person more realistic. This method of description is similar to synecdoche, using a part to stand for the entirety, or metonymy, referring to one thing through another that is closely related.

2. Holden is sometimes accused of being too critical of people. Can you point to times when he is positive?

Stradlater "was pretty handsome." (Pg. 27) Frequently, Holden mixes the positive with the negative in a way that makes the positive get overlooked. For example, Holden criticizes Ackley because Ackley does not give Howie Coyle credit where credit is due (Pg. 29). Holden's criticism of the Headmaster at Elkton Hills School may be viewed in the same light. In effect, Holden is critical of negative behavior of others. Whether he is a sensitive observer, or a complaining, critical personality may be debated.

3. Find two examples of Caulfield repeating himself excessively. What might this repetition contribute to the book?

Between page 31 and 33, Holden says that he was excited, "I really was," twice and repeats three times that he really "oughta go down" and see Jane Gallagher. This conversational tone, trying to capture the true patterns of speech, makes the story seem more real. This technique adds to the verisimilitude of the conversations.

Chapter 5

1. Find one example of a simile on page 35 and 37.

“There were about three inches of snow on the ground, and it was still coming down like a madman. It looked pretty as hell...”
“They both laughed like hyenas”

2. Despite his dislike for Ackley’s behavior, how does Holden demonstrate a sympathy for him in this chapter?

He invites him to go to town with Mal and himself; at the end of the chapter he says that with all his physical problems, “you had to feel a little sorry for the crazy sonuvabitch.” (Pg. 39)

3. We learn of Holden’s younger brother’s death almost as an aside. How do we know the death was difficult for him, although he now talks about it in a casual way? What is unusual about the way Allie’s death is first alluded to on page 38?

When Allie died, Holden punched out all the windows in the garage and then tried to break out the windows in the family car. His family was concerned enough that they wanted to get help for him. Holden describes the poems on the baseball glove, which Allie read during the game. The very next sentence comes as both a complete surprise and a nonchalant offhand statement of fact: “He’s dead now.” This juxtaposing of two strikingly different ideas—baseball and death—says a great deal about Caulfield’s difficulty in dealing with his emotions.

4. What indications are there that Holden might have idealized the memory of his dead brother?

He remembers Allie as being terribly intelligent, a great student, the nicest person in the family, and never getting mad at anyone. In short, he seems to remember none of the bad things and probably exaggerates the good points.

5. What does the following quotation reveal about the two brothers?

I’ll tell you what kind of red hair he had. I started playing golf when I was only ten years old. I remember once, the summer I was around twelve, teeing off and all, and having a hunch that if I turned around all of a sudden, I’d see Allie. So I did, and sure enough, he was sitting on his bike outside the fence—there was this fence that went all around the course—and he was sitting there, about a hundred and fifty yards behind me, watching me tee off. That’s the kind of red hair he had. (Pg. 38)

The quote says nothing revealing about Allie except that he had red hair. It does, however, reemphasize Holden’s inability to deal with his younger brother’s death and his own feelings about it. This inability is depicted again when Holden breaks the garage windows.

6. In what way is Holden's red cap a symbol of his alienation?

In chapter 5, Holden puts the cap on when he writes the composition. As in other incidents, putting on the cap seems to set him apart. In this respect, it emphasizes his alienation. He says it is his "people shooting" hat. (pg. 22) The red color may also subconsciously remind him of Allie's red hair.

Chapter 6

Vocabulary

unscrupulous – without morals

1. What is ironic about the statement "I'm a pacifist, if you want to know the truth"?

This comment comes immediately after Holden "tried to sock him [Stradlater], with all my might, right smack in the toothbrush, so it would split his goddamn throat open." (Pg. 43) The pacifism Holden claims to have is directly contradicted by his actions.

2. Why is Holden so angry with Stradlater?

Stradlater has taken Jane Gallagher out, and Holden suspects that Stradlater might have made sexual advances toward Jane. Because he thinks of Jane as a sweet, innocent friend, he cannot stand the thought of her and Stradlater being together sexually. In addition, Stradlater does not even know Jane's name; he calls her "Jean."

Chapter 7

1. Why does Holden feel "rotten" and "lonesome" in this chapter?

He is still thinking about Stradlater's advances on Jane. Holden, who is alienated from almost everyone, must have strong feelings of protection for Jane. Holden reflects that Stradlater has had sexual intercourse "with girls all the time" and hates him for that experience, but it may be Holden's sublimated envy that he is still a virgin. (Pgs. 48-49)

2. At the end of this chapter, why is Caulfield on the verge of crying? Why does he decide to go home?

He is sad, lonesome, and unhappy. Once again, he is being kicked out of a school, and this will be a disappointment to his parents. More than that, though, he feels alone, without anyone he can relate to in any meaningful fashion.

Chapter 8

Vocabulary

conscientious – paying careful attention to.

1. Why does Holden tell lies to Mrs. Morrow about her son?

He wants to make her feel good about her son; once he starts, he cannot stop.

2. Why does he give her a false name?

He says it saves a lot of explaining, but he apparently feels more comfortable in anonymity than he does in being Holden Caulfield.

3. Explain the phrase, “Boy, was she lousy with rocks. (Pg. 55)

Since this comment directly follows Mrs. Morrow removing her gloves, it must mean that her fingers had many expensive rings in them.

Chapter 9

Vocabulary

incognito – disguised

1. What is reemphasized about Holden’s personality on the first page of this chapter.

Holden wants to call someone on the phone, thinks of five people (D.B., Phoebe, Jane’s mother, Sally Hayes, and Carl Luce), and rejects each one. This scene is again quite indicative of Caulfield’s separation from others and his inability to establish meaningful contact with anyone. The fact that it takes him twenty minutes in the phone booth, however, points to his lack of direction.

2. Explain the irony found on pages 61-62.

Holden sees a man with the shade up in the room, who dresses in women’s clothing. Next, he sees a couple “squirting water out of their mouths at each other.” He states that he “was probably the only normal bastard in the whole place; and that isn’t saying much.” Holden’s normalcy is only on the surface; he is full of contradictions, confusions, idiosyncrasies, fears, frustrations, immaturity, misinterpretations, etc. The irony is an example of a character not being aware that what he says is the opposite of the facts as the reader understands them.

3. What question does Holden ask the cab driver? Why?

He asks the driver where the ducks go in the winter. Holden appears to have a real concern for them, since this is the second time the ducks' welfare has been mentioned.

4. Holden admits to being confused about sex and cannot always keep to the rules he wishes to adopt. What does the code of conduct appear to be working toward?

Although sex is a strong attraction for Holden, he appears to want to be ethical about it and his relationships with girls. He believes that guys should not "horse around" with girls they do not like. Girls should be treated properly. He resolves that he is not going to have anything to do with girls he dislikes, but then he breaks his own resolution. He awkwardly calls Faith Cavendish, who "wasn't exactly a whore or any thing but that didn't mind doing it once in a while." (Pg. 63)

Chapter 10

Vocabulary

putrid – rotten

jitterbug – a dance style

immaterial – not important

1. How does Holden feel about his sister Phoebe?

She appears to be the one person he is able to relate to in a comfortable fashion and without reservations. Although D. B. has disappointed Holden by going to Hollywood, Holden has great affection for his sister and for his deceased brother, perhaps because they are younger. Holden views Phoebe and Allie with an almost parental affection.

2. Why does Holden think the girls in the bar are "morons"?

Holden has pegged them as being shallow, and his attempted conversation on the dance floor with the blonde demonstrates that she is not much of a thinker.

3. What does the blonde's language reveal, and how does she behave on the dance floor?

On the dance floor she is looking all over the place; obviously she has little interest in Holden or the dance. Her diction and comments seem to typecast her in Holden's mind as a person of limited education and/or intelligence. She says, after Holden curses, "Listen, I toleja about that...If you're gonna use that type of language..." (Pg. 72) It is more likely, though that Caulfield has made another hasty absolute judgement with few facts on which to base it.

Chapter 11

1. Holden can't stand the thought of Jane being sexually involved with Stradlater because he sees her as pure and innocent. In what way is her innocence—her shy, naive manner of living—emphasized in this chapter?

For Holden, Jane's innocence is best represented by the checkers that he has mentioned so many times. She always keeps her kings in the back row. She appears to be a bright but shy and reserved girl who has some secret pain that is both revealed and concealed when she drops a single tear onto the checkerboard. This incident, no doubt, intensifies the warm, protective feelings Holden has for Jane because he tries to comfort her with kisses. The fact that she could be involved with Stradlater is difficult for Holden to deal with.

What literary term describes Holden's explanation of meeting Jane, the scene on her porch, and the movie incident?

Flashback

3. Although Holden likes Ernie's piano playing, what is it that Holden dislikes about Ernie?

Ernie is a snob who will not talk to people unless they are "big shots." (Pg. 80)

4. Find a sentence on page 80 that is a good example of Holden's general confusion about himself, other people, and life.

"I don't exactly know what I mean by that, but I mean it."

Chapter 12

1. In addition to providing a comic interlude, what seems to be the point of the scene with the cab driver, Horwitz?

Horwitz, with his loud, matter-of-fact approach to life, is a foil who contrasts with Holden's sensitive intellectualizing, perhaps even overanalyzing, of everything.

2. Caulfield believes that Ernie is a phony because he pretends to be humble when he bows, but is anything but humble. How has his performing hurt his talent, and what solution does Holden suggest for the problem?

Holden believes that all the adulation Ernie receives from an uncritical audience can make Ernie less critical and more complacent with his work. Performing in a closet, for himself, could keep Ernie's talent intact. (Some critics use this passage to explain Salinger's reclusive behavior.)

3. Although Holden does not like Lillian Simmons and thinks she is another phony, why does he feel sorry for her?

He feels sorry for her because he thinks that probably no one likes her, not even her date. Feeling sorry for people because of their looks or personality seems to be a habit with Holden.

4. What dryly humorous observation does Holden make about the naval officer? What literary term is used?

"He was one of those guys that think they're being a pansy if they don't break around forty of your fingers when they shake hands with you." The term used is "hyperbole."

Chapter 13

Vocabulary

nonchalant – uncaring

suave – sophisticated

1. What literary term could be applied to the nearly two-page diatribe about gloves and galoshes that begins this chapter? The end of it contradicts which previous declaration Holden made?

It would be referred to as “digression,” and it is the opposite of Holden’s statement of his pacifism.

2. Holden is confused and has many ambivalent feelings about sex, but in what respect is the point of view he operates from a moral and ethical one?

He tries to refrain from using or viewing girls as sexual objects, and he doesn’t take advantage of a relationship even though he is sometimes not sure that the girl may not secretly wish he would.

3. In regard to sex, Holden concludes that he feels sorry for girls. What observation does he make about this?

When a girl gets passionate, she begins to lose her brains. Apparently, he thinks that boys do not.

4. Why is Holden unwilling to have sex with the prostitute?

As he tries to talk to her, his sadness and depression mount. Perhaps, ironically, the contemplated sexual act is intensifying his alienation. Perhaps if they had talked or had related as human beings, he might have gone through with it, but the impersonality of it only further saddens him. He is also fearful of losing his virginity, and uses irrational excuses to cover his fears and estrangement from people.

5. Since he can easily afford it, why does Holden object to paying the prostitute another \$5.00?

Because he feels that he is being taken advantage of, the additional charge really bothers him.

Chapter 14

1. In the confrontation with Maurice and Sunny, why do you suppose Holden still refuses to give up the extra money?

Answers may vary.

Example: Despite knowing that he may be physically harmed, Holden is willing to risk a beating to stand up for his principles. It may be an ineffectual or stupid gesture, but he knew what the charge was and refuses to pay more.

2. Does his fantasizing about a bullet wound seem out of character for Holden?

No, he is young and has somewhat of a romantic imagination-driven personality. He criticizes Sunny for her reliance on movies, but this scene in Holden's mind is straight from a poorly made Hollywood movie. Afterwards, though, he reverts to a confused teenage boy, ready to commit suicide if only the "rubbernecks" would not see him "all gory." (Pg. 104)

Chapter 15

1. Point out the discrepancy between Holden's comments about movies with Sunny and Sally.

He rebukes Sunny, who, he thinks, would stay in the movies all day, yet he asks Sally to go to a matinee.

2. What conclusion does Holden arrive at about suitcases, wealth, and relationships? Does his conclusion about Dick Slagle ceasing to be his roommate seem accurate?

Possessions, for example suitcases, convey wealth and status; these things can come between people who might be able to significantly relate to each other, if it were not for possessions. Answers may vary.

Example: It does not sound logical that "we both asked to be moved" on the basis of different suitcases. (Pg. 109) Rather Holden, once again, has come up with a convenient excuse for his own inability to deal with another human being on close terms.

3. Talking about Catholics, Holden says, "It's just like those suitcases I was telling you about, in a way." (Pg. 113) In what way are Catholics like suitcases?

He gives the example of the boy he was talking to about tennis. They enjoyed their conversation, but Holden felt it was important to the boy to find out if Holden is Catholic. While Holden can recognize that people tend to like others who are similar to themselves, he regrets that it gets in the way of meaningful conversation and human relationships.

Chapter 16

1. Little children loom large in Holden's life, especially in this chapter. Who is Little Shirley Bean? Why does the sight of the six-year-old boy with his parents raise Holden's spirit?

Shirley is the name of a girl on a record who will not go out of the house because she lost two of her front teeth. Holden wants the record for Phoebe. Amid the crowds and traffic, Holden observes the joy (and innocence) of a little boy. Throughout the story, Holden seems to associate this unalloyed joy with all children. It is an innocence, untouched by ugly reality, that he apparently no longer has himself.

2. Why might the song the boy is singing be significant?

The title of the book comes from the story the boy sings and, therefore, has significance and meaning in understanding Holden, his mind, and the book. It is important that the youngster has the words mixed up ("catch" should be "meet"), since the title is taken from the confused lyrics.

3. Why, given his personality, might Holden be so upset with the idea of people going to the movies or the theater?

If he objects to people living fantasy lives through the movies, he has never given any indication of it. Possibly he sees going to the movies and sitting in a darkened theater as an isolating act that separates people, or it may simply be that movies are not real but "phony."

4. What is it about the museum of Natural History that Holden likes so much?

It presents realistic scenes of life, and these scenes never change; people, though, in some ways, are always changing. He concludes that "certain things they should stay the way they are" (the innocence of childhood, perhaps) but he realizes that life is change and it is impossible to alter that fact. (Pg. 122)

Chapter 17

1. Who is Harris Macklin?

Harris was another of Holden's short-lived roommates.

2. Holden's anxieties start to build at the time he begins talking about school, which he says he hates. What else does Holden claim to hate in this chapter? How is he expressing himself to Sally?

He hates life in New York, worrying about new cars, materialistic phonies, and cliques. In short, he is unhappy with life in modern society and would like to run off to a simpler life in Vermont or Massachusetts. Holden's speech is wildly out of control; he shouts and does not realize it; he jumps from one topic of discussion to another, almost with each succeeding sentence; he idiotically asks Sally to marry him, barely recognizing the inappropriateness; he screams and then whispers. While Sally cries, he laughs.

3. On page 131 Holden says: "I'm in lousy shape." In doing so he finally admits that he is the one with the problem, not society. Why is Sally Hayes the wrong person to be telling this to?

Sally embodies all the phoniness which Holden hates. She does not really have any idea what his problem is.

4. At the end of this chapter, he says, "I swear to God I'm a madman." Is he using this as an expression, or does he believe himself to be emotionally troubled?

While the point can be argued either way, several times earlier in the book Holden has said he is crazy. But then, as now, it seems to be a simple expression rather than an objective description of his mental health. He feels lonely, sad, confused, depressed, and alienated, but he is not crazy. In addition, Holden uses "madman" to describe how the snow fell, as well as, on the very same page, how he apologized to Sally.

Chapter 18

Vocabulary

enlightening – making clear

1. What new observation does Holden make about girls?

“The trouble with girls is, if they like a boy, no matter how big a bastard he is, they’ll say he has an inferiority complex, and if they do not like him, no matter how nice a guy he is, or how big an inferiority complex he has, they’ll say he’s conceited. Even smart girls do it.” (Pg. 136)

2. What bothers him about the movie he sees at Radio City?

He calls it “putrid,” which would seem to indicate that the plot is improbable and the characters are not people one can believe in; Holden gives the reader nearly a complete plot summary, which shows he saw and paid attention to the entire movie.

3. What does Holden’s week-long involvement with Boy Scouts indicate?

Holden seems to resent being part of any group or submitting to regimentation. Given his attitude, it is not surprising that he is a loner.

4. Holden’s thought of suicide is now highly exaggerated. What is it?

If the world were to engage in nuclear war, he would volunteer to “sit right the hell on top” of the bomb. (Pg. 141)

Chapter 19

Vocabulary

aristocratic – noble, fancy

psychoanalyze – to understand and treat the subconscious mind

1. Contrast Luce and Holden.

For one thing, Luce has changed and Holden has not. Luce is no longer willing to disseminate sexual knowledge as he did in high school. Holden, who felt that Luce was a braggart, and “knew every flit and Lesbian in the United States,” (Pg. 143) is in need of sexual advice, as well as human connection. Luce is fed up with Caulfield’s insistence on questions about sex, but Holden cannot stop. Previously, on page 136, Holden expresses the desire to have “a slightly intellectual conversation” with Luce, but never strays from sex. In addition, Holden admits, “I once called him a fat-assed phony” (Pg. 137), so it is not surprising that Luce has little time for Caulfield’s immaturity.

2. With all of the things he perceives as Luce’s faults, Holden still hates to see him go. Why?

Because Holden is “lonesome as hell,” Luce, despite his faults, seems to be someone that Holden thinks he might be able to make contact with. (Pg. 149)

Chapter 20

Vocabulary

halitosis – bad breath

pneumonia – lung disease

1. On page 150 Holden is pretending again that he has been shot in the gut, and he says, “I was concealing the fact that I was a wounded sonuvabitch.” In what way is Holden really wounded?

Critics point out that both Twain and Hemingway have heroes whose physical wounds represent emotional wounds. That Salinger is suggesting that Holden is emotionally wounded seems likely.

2. Once again, the Jane Gallagher versus Sally Hayes scenario is set up. What does each girl seem to represent for Holden?

Sally is the attractive, sexy, socially outgoing girl who embodies those values and lifestyles that Holden considers false or phony. He is attracted to her in one way but repelled in another. Jane does represent, or has represented innocence to him. Since the book began, he has thought to call her at least four times but calls only once, and then no one answered the phone. He may realize that Jane, having gone out with Stradlater, is no longer the person he once knew.

3. What figure of speech is used in the following quotation: "It's not too bad when the sun's out, but the sun only comes out when it feels like coming out"?

Personification

Chapter 21

1. Why does Phoebe put the pillow over her head?

She is upset because she realizes that Holden has, again, been kicked out of school, and this information is going to cause some problems in the family.

2. What does the fact that their family car has a radio in it indicate?

The radio reminds the reader that the story takes place in the late 1940's or early 1950's.

Chapter 22

1. Is Holden's reason for hating Pencey Prep a valid one?

If Holden's statement about Pencey are correct, it is a cliquish school that is very hard on anyone who does not fit into the proper mold. While it may have become exaggerated in his mind, there is reason to believe that his perceptions are reasonably accurate.

2. Is his disillusionment with Mr. Spencer understandable?

While it is understandable that it is discouraging for Holden to see Spencer fawning over Thurmer just because Thurmer is the boss, one would expect Holden to feel pity, not distaste, for Spencer.

3. It is clear why Holden gets depressed by his schoolmates and even Mr. Spencer, but why is he depressed by the graduate looking for his initials on the door, who, Holden admits, may be a good guy?

Holden suggests that this man gives him a lot of phony advice while seeking to recapture something of the past. Holden cannot articulate why this man depresses him, so one might speculate that Holden is projecting—is this adult life; is this all it amounts to? If so, he may be frightened of growing up.

4. When Phoebe says, “You don’t like anything that’s happening,” she is suggesting that the fault may not be in the school but in Holden. To what extent is she correct?

Holden is a lonely, alienated young man. He is confused about sex and male/female relationships. He also is very depressed by the everyday cruelties and injustices he sees. In this respect, perhaps, he is too sensitive. Like everyone growing up, he has lost his innocence; he sees injustice and phoniness everywhere and has not been able to make those compromises with life that enable a person to recognize the negative while still looking for the positive. Holden’s description of the situation at Pencey is also an accurate description of how he sees his world.

5. Given the context that has been developing, state what is represented by Holden’s desire to catch kids so as to prevent them from falling off a cliff while playing in a field of rye. What could Holden mean by this odd reference?

Given the fact that it is the innocence of children that Holden prizes highly, it appears that he would like to save them from losing their innocence by catching them in time to keep them from falling into adulthood and its disillusionment. The strength of his desire to become a catcher in the rye is completely negated by the fact that Holden is stating, “it’s the only thing I’d like to be.” There is no such job or profession; nothing like this exists, except in Holden’s mind; therefore, it must be taken symbolically. It is also indicative of Holden’s weakening grip on reality. He wants to stop something from happening that cannot be stopped by doing something that cannot be done. He even admits, “I know it’s crazy.” (Pg. 173)

Chapter 23

1. On page 179 why does Holden break out crying?

The book offers no explanation for it, but one might assume that at this point his nerves are on edge. When Phoebe gives him the money she has saved, her generosity of spirit coupled with his low spirits causes him to break down.

Chapter 24

Vocabulary

pedagogical – teaching manner

provocative – stimulating

harrowing – frightening

1. When we first meet Mr. Antolini, we expect him to be a mouthpiece for the author and to have some special insight into Holden and his problems because of the respect Holden has for his mind. In the following quote by Mr. Antolini, how much of it accurately describes Holden, and how much of it seems to be inaccurate?

“Among other things you’ll find that you’re not the first person who was ever confused and frightened and even sickened by human behavior. You’re by no means alone on that score, you’ll be excited and stimulated to know. Many, many men have been just as troubled morally and spiritually as you are right now.” (Pg. 189)

Holden is confused about sex, relationships, and the fake values that he sees that people have. He is also frightened and sickened by the cruel and vicious behavior he sees in his school-mates. Life, as he sees it every day, is confusing, frightening and, to some extent, sickening. Is he troubled morally and spiritually; however, Holden is not questioning too many aspects of life because he sees them in black and white. He has few gradations; his enmity for most things he sees is absolute and his opinions are forceful and allow for no misinterpretation. They may shift dramatically (e.g., his feelings for Sally), but he never sees this switch as anything but normal. His questioning of Mr. Antolini’s motives in the beginning of the next chapter, however, show Holden’s inner turmoil has him questioning his own actions.

2. A point that is much debated in this story is the significance of Mr. Antolini’s action as he sits on the floor. What point do you suppose is debated?

Is Mr. Antolini making a homosexual advance as Holden suspects, or is Holden attributing sexual motives to what is a simple act of concern? The answer is not at all clear and is completely irrelevant, since at this point Holden definitely thinks Mr. Antolini made a pass at him.

3. What is the significance of the final scene at Mr. Antolini’s?

The only person Holden fully admired, without reservation, who gave Holden the advice that could make him a better person is now perceived as a pervert, someone who could take advantage of him.

Chapter 25

1. What does Holden not understand about his nausea?

Holden only attributes the nausea to a physical cause; he completely ignores his mental state, which is probably more the reason that he has to vomit.

2. As Holden walks up Fifth Avenue, what “spooky” thing begins to happen to him? What does this signify? How does he try to prevent these feelings from turning into reality?

As he has to cross each street, he thinks he will never get to the other side, and he will just disappear. These appear to be anxiety attacks and clearly signal an emotional problem. He actually prays to Allie to help him.

3. What does he envision as a solution to the problem he has with life and society?

By going out West and pretending to be a deaf mute, Holden intends to completely withdraw from society.

4. The obscenities on the wall, first at the school and later in the tomb, signify what for Holden?

Something from the outside world will always encroach on a person's peacefulness and ruin it. For the children, the obscenity and ugliness in the world can lead to a loss of innocence; for himself, the result is to disturb an already disturbed consciousness further.

5. “All the kids kept trying to grab for the gold ring, and so was old Phoebe, and I was sort of afraid she'd fall off the goddam horse, but I didn't say anything or do anything. The thing with kids is, if they want to grab for the gold ring, you have to let them do it, and not say anything. They fall off, they fall off, but it's bad if you say anything to them.”

Explain the meaning of the quotation above.

Holden's encounter with, and feelings for, children are the only times he is happy or expresses joy. This quotation is contrasted with his desire to protect children and, especially, to be a “catcher” of them. It is possible that Salinger is giving the reader a small glimmer of hope for Caulfield's understanding of himself. Holden seems to be saying that he (adults) cannot prevent young children (Allie, Phoebe, himself, the kids at the museum, etc.) from growing up and being hurt by the ugliness of the real world.

6. The critical point seems to come for Holden when Phoebe arrives with her suitcase. After they argue, she cries and ignores Holden; he then says he is not going to leave. At what later point do we see him go from depression to happiness? What brings it on, and how do you account for this change?

As he watches Phoebe go around on the carousel, Holden says: "I felt so damn happy all of a sudden, the way old Phoebe kept going around and around. I was damn near bawling, I felt so damn happy, if you want to know the truth. I don't know why. It was just that she looked so damn nice, the way she kept going around and around in her blue coat and all." (Pg. 213) It is apparent that this transformation is brought on by Phoebe, who "looked so damn nice." If Holden is experiencing or on the verge of a nervous breakdown, this statement in itself hints at a sudden and drastic change in mood; as an explanation, though, for a complete transformation it is not completely satisfying.

Salinger has had us watch Holden as he makes this journey, which, if not into the darkness of Holden's soul, is at least a journey full of significance. What does Caulfield learn at the end, however? Holden's happiness may be only momentary, since it is derived from the joy and happiness he gets from watching a child who looks "so damn nice" go around and around on a carousel.

7. Find a sentence on page 212 that, for the first time, reveals a truth about Holden's future.

"I really did go home afterwards."

Chapter 26

1. This chapter is, in a manner of speaking, an epilogue. It brings us back to present time and resolves all the questions – or does it? Has Holden recovered from his nervous breakdown? When he starts his new school, will he do better? Has he learned anything? Do the last two lines have any significance?

Holden says, "I think I am, but how do I know? I swear it's a stupid question." (Pg. 213) Holden's answer may be a tentative "yes." For the reader who does not like loose ends, this may be annoying, but Holden's complexities are not easily resolved. Therefore, there is no concrete answer as to what the last two lines signify, if anything.

The Catcher In The Rye

Study Guide Student Copy

Chapter 1

Vocabulary

hemorrhage – uncontrolled bleeding

grippe – flu-like disease

ostracized – separated; excluded from society

1. Who is the narrator in this story, at what point in time is he telling the story, and where is he when he is telling the story?
2. What kind of tone is established in the first paragraph, and how is it done?
3. What is it that Holden does not like about the Pencey Prep advertisement and about the headmaster, Thurmer?
4. In the second full paragraph on page 4, why is Holden hanging around the cannon, freezing? What does this say about his personality?
5. Find an example on page 4 of the narrator making a statement that is obviously false, which he expects the reader to believe. What do these repeated false statements tell you about Holden?

Chapter 2

Vocabulary

innumerable – unable to be counted

qualm – worry, hesitation, uneasiness

1. Although Holden seems well-read, he continually leaves schools. Why?
2. Holden stops in to say good-bye to old Spencer; and as he sits there, he gets more and more upset. Why?
3. How does Holden's reason for leaving Elkton Hills school further show that he is a sensitive person?

Chapter 3

Vocabulary

compulsory - mandatory

chiffonier - dresser

foils – swords for fencing

falsetto – high pitched voice

1. How is it possible that despite Holden's statement in the first line of chapter 3, "I'm the most terrific liar you ever saw in your life," the reader believes nearly every thing he says?

2. Holden's understandings are false much of the time, but the basic ideas are correct. Find an example of this on page 16.
3. Why does Holden think that Mr. Ossenburger is a phony?
4. What kind of person is Ackley, and how does Holden feel about him?
5. Why does Ackley hate Stradlater? How does Holden feel about Stradlater?

Chapter 4

1. Do the characters Mr. Spencer, Ackley, and Stradlater strike you as believable people? Do Holden's observations of them seem accurate or inaccurate? What method does Salinger use for Holden's description of people?
2. Holden is sometimes accused of being too critical of people. Can you point to times when he is positive?
3. Find two examples of Caulfield repeating himself excessively. What might this repetition contribute to the book?

Chapter 5

1. Find one example of a simile on page 35 and 37.
2. Despite his dislike for Ackley's behavior, how does Holden demonstrate a sympathy for him in this chapter?
3. We learn of Holden's younger brother's death almost as an aside. How do we know the death was difficult for him, although he now talks about it in a casual way? What is unusual about the way Allie's death is first alluded to on page 38?
4. What indications are there that Holden might have idealized the memory of his dead brother?
5. What does the following quotation reveal about the two brothers?

I'll tell you what kind of red hair he had. I started playing golf when I was only ten years old. I remember once, the summer I was around twelve, teeing off and all, and having a hunch that if I turned around all of a sudden, I'd see Allie. So I did, and sure enough, he was sitting on his bike outside the fence—there was this fence that went all around the course—and he was sitting there, about a hundred and fifty yards behind me, watching me tee off. That's the kind of red hair he had. (Pg. 38)

6. In what way is Holden's red cap a symbol of his alienation?

Chapter 6

Vocabulary

unscrupulous – without morals

1. What is ironic about the statement “I’m a pacifist, if you want to know the truth”?
2. Why is Holden so angry with Stradlater?

Chapter 7

1. Why does Holden feel “rotten” and “lonesome” in this chapter?
2. At the end of this chapter, why is Caulfield on the verge of crying? Why does he decide to go home?

Chapter 8

Vocabulary

conscientious – paying careful attention to.

1. Why does Holden tell lies to Mrs. Morrow about her son?
2. Why does he give her a false name?
3. Explain the phrase, “Boy, was she lousy with rocks. (Pg. 55)

Chapter 9

Vocabulary

incognito – disguised

1. What is reemphasized about Holden’s personality on the first page of this chapter.
2. Explain the irony found on pages 61-62.
3. What question does Holden ask the cab driver? Why?
4. Holden admits to being confused about sex and cannot always keep to the rules he wishes to adopt. What does the code of conduct appear to be working toward?

Chapter 10

Vocabulary

putrid – rotten

jitterbug – a dance style

immaterial – not important

1. How does Holden feel about his sister Phoebe?
2. Why does Holden think the girls in the bar are “morons”?
3. What does the blonde’s language reveal, and how does she behave on the dance floor?

Chapter 11

1. Holden can’t stand the thought of Jane being sexually involved with Stradlater because he sees her as pure and innocent. In what way is her innocence—her shy, naive manner of living—emphasized in this chapter?
2. What literary term describes Holden’s explanation of meeting Jane, the scene on her porch, and the movie incident?
3. Although Holden likes Ernie’s piano playing, what is it that Holden dislikes about Ernie?
4. Find a sentence on page 80 that is a good example of Holden’s general confusion about himself, other people, and life.

Chapter 12

1. In addition to providing a comic interlude, what seems to be the point of the scene with the cab driver, Horwitz?
2. Caulfield believes that Ernie is a phony because he pretends to be humble when he bows, but is anything but humble. How has his performing hurt his talent, and what solution does Holden suggest for the problem?
3. Although Holden does not like Lillian Simmons and thinks she is another phony, why does he feel sorry for her?
4. What dryly humorous observation does Holden make about the naval officer? What literary term is used?

Chapter 13

Vocabulary

nonchalant – uncaring

suave – sophisticated

1. What literary term could be applied to the nearly two-page diatribe about gloves and galoshes that begins this chapter? The end of it contradicts which previous declaration Holden made?
2. Holden is confused and has many ambivalent feelings about sex, but in what respect is the point of view he operates from a moral and ethical one?
3. In regard to sex, Holden concludes that he feels sorry for girls. What observation does he make about this?
4. Why is Holden unwilling to have sex with the prostitute?
5. Since he can easily afford it, why does Holden object to paying the prostitute another \$5.00?

Chapter 14

1. In the confrontation with Maurice and Sunny, why do you suppose Holden still refuses to give up the extra money?
2. Does his fantasizing about a bullet wound seem out of character for Holden?

Chapter 15

1. Point out the discrepancy between Holden's comments about movies with Sunny and Sally.
2. What conclusion does Holden arrive at about suitcases, wealth, and relationships? Does his conclusion about Dick Slagle ceasing to be his roommate seem accurate?
3. Talking about Catholics, Holden says, "It's just like those suitcases I was telling you about, in a way." (Pg. 113) In what way are Catholics like suitcases?

Chapter 16

1. Little children loom large in Holden's life, especially in this chapter. Who is Little Shirley Bean? Why does the sight of the six-year-old boy with his parents raise Holden's spirit?
2. Why might the song the boy is singing be significant?
3. Why, given his personality, might Holden be so upset with the idea of people going to the movies or the theater?
4. What is it about the museum of Natural History that Holden likes so much?

Chapter 17

1. Who is Harris Macklin?
2. Holden's anxieties start to build at the time he begins talking about school, which he says he hates. What else does Holden claim to hate in this chapter? How is he expressing himself to Sally?
3. On page 131 Holden says: "I'm in *lousy* shape." In doing so he finally admits that he is the one with the problem, not society. Why is Sally Hayes the wrong person to be telling this to?
4. At the end of this chapter, he says, "I swear to God I'm a madman." Is he using this as an expression, or does he believe himself to be emotionally troubled?

Chapter 18

Vocabulary

enlightening – making clear

1. What new observation does Holden make about girls?
2. What bothers him about the movie he sees at Radio City?
3. What does Holden's week-long involvement with Boy Scouts indicate?
4. Holden's thought of suicide is now highly exaggerated. What is it?

Chapter 19

Vocabulary

aristocratic – noble, fancy

psychoanalyze – to understand and treat the subconscious mind

1. Contrast Luce and Holden.
2. With all of the things he perceives as Luce's faults, Holden still hates to see him go. Why?

Chapter 20

Vocabulary

halitosis – bad breath

pneumonia – lung disease

1. On page 150 Holden is pretending again that he has been shot in the gut, and he says, “I was *concealing* the fact that I was a wounded sonuvabitch.” In what way is Holden really wounded?
2. Once again, the Jane Gallagher versus Sally Hayes scenario is set up. What does each girl seem to represent for Holden?
3. What figure of speech is used in the following quotation: “It’s not too bad when the sun’s out, but the sun only comes out when it feels like coming out”?

Chapter 21

1. Why does Phoebe put the pillow over her head?
2. What does the fact that their family car has a radio in it indicate?

Chapter 22

1. Is Holden's reason for hating Pencey Prep a valid one?
2. Is his disillusionment with Mr. Spencer understandable?
3. It is clear why Holden gets depressed by his schoolmates and even Mr. Spencer, but why is he depressed by the graduate looking for his initials on the door, who, Holden admits, may be a good guy?
4. When Phoebe says, "You don't like anything that's happening," she is suggesting that the fault may not be in the school but in Holden. To what extent is she correct?
5. Given the context that has been developing, state what is represented by Holden's desire to catch kids so as to prevent them from falling off a cliff while playing in a field of rye. What could Holden mean by this odd reference?

Chapter 23

1. On page 179 why does Holden break out crying?

Chapter 24

Vocabulary

pedagogical – teaching manner

provocative – stimulating

harrowing – frightening

1. When we first meet Mr. Antolini, we expect him to be a mouthpiece for the author and to have some special insight into Holden and his problems because of the respect Holden has for his mind. In the following quote by Mr. Antolini, how much of it accurately describes Holden, and how much of it seems to be inaccurate?
2. A point that is much debated in this story is the significance of Mr. Antolini's action as he sits on the floor. What point do you suppose is debated?
3. What is the significance of the final scene at Mr. Antolini's?

Chapter 25

1. What does Holden not understand about his nausea?
2. As Holden walks up Fifth Avenue, what “spooky” thing begins to happen to him? What does this signify? How does he try to prevent these feelings from turning into reality?

3. What does he envision as a solution to the problem he has with life and society?
4. The obscenities on the wall, first at the school and later in the tomb, signify what for Holden?
5. “All the kids kept trying to grab for the gold ring, and so was old Phoebe, and I was sort of afraid she’d fall off the goddam horse, but I didn’t say anything or do anything. The thing with kids is, if they want to grab for the gold ring, you have to let them do it, and not say anything. They fall off, they fall off, but it’s bad if you say anything to them.”

Explain the meaning of the quotation above.

6. The critical point seems to come for Holden when Phoebe arrives with her suitcase. After they argue, she cries and ignores Holden; he then says he is not going to leave. At what later point do we see him go from depression to happiness? What brings it on, and how do you account for this change?
7. Find a sentence on page 212 that, for the first time, reveals a truth about Holden’s future.

Chapter 26

1. This chapter is, in a manner of speaking, an epilogue. It brings us back to present time and resolves all the questions – or does it? Has Holden recovered from his nervous breakdown? When he starts his new school, will he do better? Has he learned anything? Do the last two lines have any significance?

The Perfect Balance Between Cost and Quality for Classic Paperbacks

WITH ALL OF THE DIFFERENT EDITIONS of classics available, what makes *Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Classics™* better?

Our editions were designed by former teachers with the needs of teachers and students in mind. Because we've struggled to stretch tight budgets and had to deal with the deficiencies of cheaply made paperbacks, we've produced high-quality trade editions at remarkably low prices. As a result, our editions have it all.

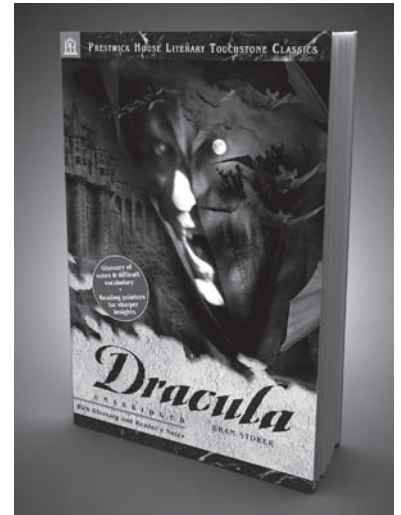
Value Pricing – With our extraordinary Educators' Discount, you get these books at **50% or more off the list price.**

Reading Pointers for Sharper Insights – Concise notes that encourage students to question and consider points of plot, theme, characterization, and style, etc.

Glossary and Vocabulary – An A-to-Z glossary makes sure that your students won't get lost in difficult allusions or archaic vocabulary and concepts.

Sturdy Bindings and High-Quality Paper – High-quality construction ensures these editions hold up to heavy, repeated use.

Strategies for Understanding Shakespeare – Each *Shakespeare Literary Touchstone Classic™* contains line numbers, margin notes, and a guide to understanding Shakespeare's language, as well as key strategies for getting the most from the plays.



Special Introductory Discount for Educators only – At Least 50% Off!

New titles are constantly being added; call or visit our website for current listing.

	Retail Price	Intro. Discount
200053..... <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> - Twain TU RJ AT AP	\$4.99	\$2.49
200473..... <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The</i> - Twain TU RJ AT	\$4.99	\$2.49
202116..... <i>Alice's Adventure in Wonderland</i> - Carroll TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
202118..... <i>Antigone</i> - Sophocles TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200141..... <i>Awakening, The</i> - Chopin TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
202111..... <i>Beowulf</i> - Roberts (ed.) TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
204866..... <i>Best of Poe, The: The Tell-Tale Heart, The Raven, The Cask of Amontillado, and 30 Others</i> - Poe	\$4.99	\$2.49
200150..... <i>Call of the Wild, The</i> - London TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200348..... <i>Canterbury Tales</i> - Chaucer TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200179..... <i>Christmas Carol, A</i> - Dickens TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
201198..... <i>Crime and Punishment</i> - Dostoyevsky TU	\$6.99	\$3.49
200694..... <i>Doll's House, A</i> - Ibsen TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200190..... <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> - Stevenson TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99

202113..... <i>Dracula</i> - Stoker TU RJ	\$5.99	\$2.99
200166..... <i>Ethan Frome</i> - Wharton TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200054..... <i>Frankenstein</i> - Shelley TU RJ AT AP	\$4.99	\$1.99
202112..... <i>Great Expectations</i> - Dickens TU RJ AT AP	\$5.99	\$2.99
202108..... <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> - Swift TU	\$4.99	\$2.49
200091..... <i>Hamlet</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
200074..... <i>Heart of Darkness</i> - Conrad TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
202117..... <i>Hound of the Baskervilles, The</i> - Doyle TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200147..... <i>Importance of Being Earnest, The</i> - Wilde TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
301414..... <i>Invisible Man, The</i> - Wells TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
202115..... <i>Jane Eyre</i> - Brontë TU RJ	\$6.99	\$3.49
200146..... <i>Julius Caesar</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
201817..... <i>Jungle, The</i> - Sinclair TU RJ AT	\$5.99	\$2.99
200125..... <i>Macbeth</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
204864..... <i>Medea</i> - Euripides TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200133..... <i>Metamorphosis, The</i> - Kafka TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
200081..... <i>Midsummer Night's Dream, A</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
202123..... <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
301391..... <i>My Antonia</i> - Cather TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
200079..... <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> - Douglass TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
301269..... <i>Odyssey, The</i> - Butler (trans.) TU RJ AT	\$4.99	\$2.49
200564..... <i>Oedipus Rex</i> - Sophocles TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200095..... <i>Othello</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
202121..... <i>Picture of Dorian Gray, The</i> - Wilde TU RJ	\$4.99	\$2.49
200368..... <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> - Austen TU RJ AT	\$4.99	\$2.49
202114..... <i>Prince, The</i> - Machavelli TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200791..... <i>Pygmalion</i> - Shaw TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200102..... <i>Red Badge of Courage, The</i> - Crane TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200193..... <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$0.99
200132..... <i>Scarlet Letter, The</i> - Hawthorne TU AT AP	\$4.99	\$2.49
202119..... <i>Siddhartha</i> - Hesse TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
204863..... <i>Silas Marner</i> - Eliot TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200251..... <i>Tale of Two Cities, A</i> - Dickens AT AP	\$5.99	\$2.99
200231..... <i>Taming of the Shrew, The</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
204865..... <i>Time Machine, The</i> - Wells TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
202120..... <i>Treasure Island</i> - Stevenson TU RJ	\$4.99	\$2.49
301420..... <i>War of the Worlds</i> - Wells TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
202122..... <i>Wuthering Heights</i> - Brontë TU AT	\$5.99	\$2.99

TU Teaching Units RJ Response Journals AP Activity Pack AT AP Teaching Units



PRESTWICK HOUSE, INC.

"Everything for the English Classroom!"

