

1: SparkNotes: The Catcher in the Rye

The Catcher in the Rye is J.D. Salinger's novel of post-war alienation told by angst-ridden teen Holden Caulfield. Controversial at the time of publication for its frank language, it was an instant best-seller, and remains beloved by both teens and adults. Read a character analysis of Holden, plot summary, and important quotes.

The novel is a frame story a story within a certain fictional framework in the form of a long flashback. Holden wants to tell what happened over a two-day period the previous December, beginning on the Saturday afternoon of the traditional season-ending football game between his school, Pencey Prep, and Saxon Hall. He is out of shape because he smokes too much. His general health is poor. He is alternately depressed, confused, angry, anxious, perceptive, bigoted, resentful, thoughtful, kind, and horny. To put it simply, Holden is struggling. The schools are filled with lies and cruelty, ranging in degree from the relatively harmless Pencey school motto "Since we have been molding boys into splendid, clear-thinking young men. Holden resents the adult world and resists entry into it, but he has little choice. Society and his own body are telling him that it is time for him to change. He is attracted to the trappings of adulthood: But he despises the compromises, loss of innocence, absence of integrity, and loss of authenticity in the grown-up world. He seems best at the rites of passage smoking and drinking that are themselves artificial if not self-destructive. Despite his limited experience, his attitude toward women is actually admirable and mature. He stops making sexual advances when a girl says "No. In his confusion, he sees this behavior as a weakness that may even call for psychotherapy. His interactions with the prostitute Sunny are comic as well as touching, partly because they are both adolescents trying to be adults. Although Sunny is the more frightening of the two, neither belongs there. Holden is literally about to crash. Near the beginning as well as the end of the novel, he feels that he will disappear or fall into an abyss when he steps off a curb to cross a street. Sometimes when this happens, he calls on his dead brother, Allie , for help. Thoughts of Allie lying in his grave in the cemetery in the rain, surrounded by dead bodies and tombstones, haunt Holden. He wants time itself to stop. He wants beautiful moments to last forever, using as his model the displays in glass at the Museum of Natural History, in which the same people are shown doing the same things year after year. Never mind that even museum displays change. His feelings are typically adolescent, feelings shared by virtually everyone who is or ever has been his age. One of the reasons we like Holden is that he is so candid about how he feels.

2: Analysis of J. D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye – Literary Theory and Criticism

The first mention we get of this mysterious catcher in this mysterious rye is when Holden overhears a little kid singing, "If a body catch a body coming through the rye." For just a second, it make.

He has been notified that he has just flunked out of prep school, and he begins his journey home, where he must face his parents. He is also considering whether he should simply go out west and start a new life, rather than go home at all. Before he leaves Pencey, Ackley, the boy who lives in the next room, comes over to visit. Ackley has several personal habits which make him unappealing, but Holden tolerates him. Although Stradlater is handsome and has the veneer of sincerity, Holden thinks he is a phony. That evening, in New York City, Holden joins three female tourists in a nightclub and gets stuck with the check. Back at his hotel, he accepts an offer from the elevator operator for some female companionship. When the girl arrives, he is depressed by the hollowness of an encounter with a prostitute and tells her that he is not in the mood for sex. The next day, Sunday, Holden meets two nuns at breakfast. He enjoys their conversation and insists on giving them a contribution. That afternoon, he takes his old girlfriend, Sally, to see a play. Still ambivalent about going home, Holden tries to talk Sally into running away with him. When he insults her, she asks him to leave. Later, he goes home and sneaks into the house to see his sister, Phoebe, before he runs away. After they talk, he decides to spend the night at the home of his former English teacher, Mr. Holden suspects that his former teacher is a pervert when he is awakened by Mr. Antolini petting him on the head. Holden makes up a flimsy excuse about getting his bags from the train station and bolts from the apartment. Holden continues to be obsessed by his plan to go out west. On Monday morning, he writes Phoebe a note at her school asking her to meet him near the Metropolitan Museum. Phoebe meets him with suitcase in hand. She has decided to run away with him, but he tells her that he is not going away after all. They visit the zoo, and then Phoebe wants to ride the carousel in the park. Before she gets on, he confirms to her that he really is going home. While standing in a soaking rain, watching Phoebe ride the carousel, he feels so happy that he is on the verge of tears. The novel is divided into three sections, with the first chapter as an introduction and the last chapter as an epilogue. Chapters Twenty-one through Twenty-five describe his time with Phoebe. The reading could be broken down into two or three two-hour sittings, though many readers are able, if they have the time, to read the book in one long sitting.

3: The Catcher in the Rye | Summary, Analysis, Reception, & Facts | www.enganchecubano.com

The Catcher in the Rye study guide contains a biography of J.D. Salinger, literature essays, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary and analysis. About The Catcher in the Rye The Catcher in the Rye Summary.

The Catcher in the Rye Characters with Analysis written by: Holden Caulfield is the protagonist and narrator of The Catcher in the Rye. Everything we read comes through his maladjusted filter. His unreliability as a narrator makes the description of events and other characters dubious. It is however, all we have to go by. Salinger does an expert job of showing how Holden observes things, yet fails to understand them, a common motif in novels narrated by adolescents or children The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and To Kill a Mockingbird are two such examples. As Holden narrates his experience in the night club at the Edmont Hotel, he attempts to present himself as suave and sophisticated. The mocking behavior of the three women whom he attempts to impress, however, indicate that Holden looks like a jackass. Holden also cannot make sense of his depression and frequent crying. The reader understands that Holden is experiencing a mental breakdown and engaging in self-destructive behavior. Holden fails to recognize that he is the cause of his isolation and suffering, that he brings torment with him wherever he goes. The reader becomes a parent watching his or her teenage son make one stupid mistake after another. Phoebe - Despite being significantly younger than Holden, he goes to his sister for advice and comfort. Her life represents what Holden wants his life to be like. Allie remains frozen in childhood, a state Holden wishes he could live in. Because he works in Hollywood, Holden considers him as phony as the rest of the people in his life. She possesses many of the same qualities Holden does: He forces Holden to read his final exam essay, symbolic of forcing Holden to face the truth. Stradlater - Holden calls Stradlater, his roommate, a secret slob. Stradlater represents the type of phony that Holden despises. Jane Gallagher - Holden remains fascinated with Jane and fails to recognize his own cowardice in regards to calling her. Sally Hayes - All we know about Sally is that she and Holden have dated before and that she is extremely attractive. Holden overlooks her deficiencies on account of her looks, making him no better than Stradlater and the other phonies Holden despises. Carl Luce - possibly the most annoying character in the novel, Holden looks up to him on account of his sexual knowledge. Holden wakes up to find Mr. Antolini patting him on the head, something which he considers a homosexual advance.

4: SparkNotes: The Catcher in the Rye: Plot Overview

The Catcher in the Rye is set around the s and is narrated by a young man named Holden Caulfield. Holden is not specific about his location while he's telling the story, but he makes it clear that he is undergoing treatment in a mental hospital or sanatorium.

Plot[edit] Holden Caulfield , a teenager, is living in an unspecified institution in Southern California near Hollywood in Caulfield intends to live with his brother D. B, an author and World War II veteran whom Holden is angered at for becoming a screenwriter , one month after his discharge. As he waits, Holden recalls the events of the previous Christmas. Holden begins his story at Pencey Preparatory Academy, an exclusive boarding school in Hagerstown, Pennsylvania , on the Saturday afternoon of the traditional football game with a rival school. Holden has been expelled from Pencey due to poor work and is not to return after Christmas break, which begins the following Wednesday. He plans to return home on that day so that he will not be present when his parents receive notice of his expulsion. After forfeiting a fencing match in New York by forgetting the equipment in the subway, he is invited to the home of his history teacher, Mr. Spencer is a well-meaning but long-winded old man. Holden returns to his dorm wearing the new red hunting cap he bought in New York. His dorm neighbor Robert Ackley is one of the few students also missing the game. Ackley, unpopular among his peers, disturbs Holden with his impolite questioning and mannerisms. Holden, who feels sorry for Ackley, tolerates his presence. Later, Holden agrees to write an English composition for his roommate, Ward Stradlater, who is leaving for a date. Since Ackley and Mal had already seen the film, they end up just playing pinball and returning to Pencey. Enraged, Holden punches him, and Stradlater easily wins the ensuing fight. When Holden continues insulting him after the fight, Stradlater knocks him unconscious and leaves him with a bloody nose. Fed up with the so-called "phonies" at Pencey Prep, Holden impulsively decides to leave Pencey early, sells his typewriter to earn money, and catches a train to Penn Station in New York. Holden intends to stay away from his home in a hotel until Wednesday, when his parents would have received news of his expulsion. Aboard the train, Holden meets the mother of a wealthy, obnoxious Pencey student named Ernest Morrow, and lies to her about himself and her son. In a taxicab , Holden inquires with the driver about whether the ducks in the Central Park lagoon migrate during winter, a subject he brings up often, but the man barely responds. Holden checks into the dilapidated Edmont Hotel. He spends an evening dancing with three tourist women from Seattle in the hotel lounge and enjoys dancing with one, though is disappointed that he is unable to hold a conversation with them. His attitude toward the girl changes the minute she enters the room; she seems about the same age as him. Holden becomes uncomfortable with the situation, and when he tells her all he wants to do is talk, she becomes annoyed and leaves. Even though he still paid her the right amount for her time, she returns with her pimp Maurice and demands more money. Afterwards, Holden imagines that he has been shot by Maurice, and pictures murdering him with an automatic pistol. The next morning, Holden, becoming increasingly depressed and in need of personal connection, calls Sally Hayes, a familiar date. Although Holden claims that she is "the queen of all phonies", they agree to meet that afternoon to attend a play at the Biltmore Theater. Holden shops for a special record , "Little Shirley Beans", for his year-old sister Phoebe. He spots a small boy singing " If a body catch a body coming through the rye ", which lifts his mood. After the play, Holden and Sally go ice skating at Rockefeller Center , where Holden suddenly begins ranting against society and frightens Sally. He impulsively invites Sally to run away with him that night to live in the wilderness of New England , but she is uninterested in his hastily conceived plan and declines. The conversation turns sour, and the two angrily part ways. During the meeting, Holden annoys Carl with his fixation on sex. After Luce leaves, Holden gets drunk, awkwardly flirts with several adults, and calls an icy Sally. Nostalgically recalling his experience in elementary school and the unchanging dioramas in the Museum of Natural History that he enjoyed visiting as a child, Holden heads home to see Phoebe. Although Phoebe is happy to see Holden, she quickly deduces that he has been expelled, and chastises him for his aimlessness and his apparent dislikes towards everything. His job is to catch the children if, in their abandon, they come close to falling off the brink; to be, in effect, the "catcher in the rye".

Because of this misinterpretation, Holden believes that to be the "catcher in the rye" means to save children from losing their innocence. When his mother returns home, Holden slips out and visits his former and much-admired English teacher, Mr. Antolini, who is now a New York University professor. Antolini expresses concern that Holden is headed for "a terrible fall" and advises him to begin applying himself. Although Holden is exhausted, he is courteous and considers his advice. Antolini also provides Holden with a place to sleep. Holden is upset when he wakes up in the night to find Mr. Antolini patting his head, which he interprets as a homosexual advance. Confused and uncertain, he leaves and spends the rest of the night in a waiting room at Grand Central Station, where he sinks further into despair and expresses regret over leaving Mr. He spends most of Monday morning wandering Fifth Avenue. Losing hope of finding belonging or companionship in the city, Holden impulsively decides that he will head out west and live a reclusive lifestyle as a gas station attendant. He decides to see Phoebe at lunchtime to explain his plan and say farewell. When he meets Phoebe at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, she arrives with a suitcase and asks to go with him, even though she was looking forward to acting as Benedict Arnold in a play that Friday. Holden refuses to let her come with him, which upsets Phoebe, so Holden decides not to leave after all. He tries to cheer her up by allowing her to skip school and taking her to the Central Park Zoo, but she remains angry with him. Holden is finally filled with happiness and joy at the sight of Phoebe riding in the rain. In a short epilogue, Holden briefly alludes to encountering his parents that night and "getting sick" implying a tuberculosis diagnosis, mentioning that he will be attending another school in September. He warns the reader that telling others about their own experiences will lead them to miss the people who shared them. History[edit] Various older stories by Salinger contain characters similar to those in *The Catcher in the Rye*. In , *The New Yorker* accepted a page manuscript about Holden Caulfield for publication, but Salinger later withdrew it. There is flow in the seemingly disjointed ideas and episodes; for example, as Holden sits in a chair in his dorm, minor events, such as picking up a book or looking at a table, unfold into discussions about experiences. Critical reviews affirm that the novel accurately reflected the teenage colloquial speech of the time. In chapter 13 she says that in the movie a boy falls off a boat. The movie is *Captains Courageous*, starring Spencer Tracy. Sunny says that Holden looks like the boy who fell off the boat. Beidler shows page 28 a still of the boy, played by child-actor Freddie Bartholomew. Each Caulfield child has literary talent. Falling off the cliff could be a progression into the adult world that surrounds him and that he strongly criticizes. Bush called it a "marvelous book," listing it among the books that have inspired him. Holden is at various times disaffected, disgruntled, alienated, isolated, directionless, and sarcastic. In this article, Pruchnic focuses on how the novel continues to be received incredibly well, even after it has aged many generations. Rohrer writes, "Many of these readers are disappointed that the novel fails to meet the expectations generated by the mystique it is shrouded in. Salinger has done his part to enhance this mystique. That is to say, he has done nothing. Censorship and use in schools[edit] In , a teacher in Tulsa, Oklahoma was fired for assigning the novel in class; however, she was later reinstated. They are trying to be catchers in the rye". Additionally, after fatally shooting John Lennon, Mark David Chapman was arrested with a copy of the book that he had purchased that same day, inside of which he had written: I wanted to make a picture out of it. Leland Hayward to lay off. That was the entire speech. I never saw him. Salinger and that was *Catcher in the Rye*. *Coming Through the Rye*, which has been compared to fan fiction.

5: The Catcher in the Rye - Wikipedia

What is the summary for chapters 16, 17, and 18 in The Catcher in the Rye? Chapter 16 from J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye begins right after Holden has breakfast and talking with a couple.

Salinger published in The novel details two days in the life of year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. He ends up exhausted and emotionally unstable. The events are related after the fact. The story begins with Holden at Pencey Prep School on his way to the house of his history teacher, Spencer, so that he can say goodbye. He reveals to the reader that he has been expelled for failing most of his classes. Having agreed, Holden writes about the baseball glove of his younger brother, Allie, who died of leukemia. This causes Holden to storm out and leave Pencey for New York City a few days earlier than planned for Christmas break. Once he arrives in New York, he cannot go home, as his parents do not yet know that he has been expelled. Instead, he rents a room at the Edmont Hotel, where he witnesses some sexually charged scenes through the windows of other rooms. When he gets back to the hotel, he orders a prostitute to his room, only to talk to her. This situation ends in him being punched in the stomach. The next morning, Holden calls Sally Hayes, an ex-girlfriend of his. They spend the day together until Holden makes a rude remark and she leaves crying. Holden stays behind and gets drunk by himself. He sneaks in, still not prepared to face his parents, and finds his year-old sister, Phoebe. She is upset when she hears that Holden has failed out and accuses him of not liking anything. He calls his former English teacher, Mr. Antolini, who tells Holden he can come stay at his apartment. He immediately excuses himself and heads to Grand Central Station, where he spends the rest of the night. She arrives with a packed bag and insists on going with him. He tells her no and instead takes her to the zoo, where he watches her ride the carousel in the pouring rain. This is where the flashback ends. Interpretation The Catcher in the Rye takes the loss of innocence as its primary concern. If they fall off, they fall off. Publication and initial reception The Caulfield family was one Salinger had already explored in a number of stories that had been published by different magazines. Holden appeared in some of those stories, even narrating one, but he was not as richly fleshed out in them as he would be in The Catcher in the Rye. The novel, unlike the other stories of the Caulfield family, had difficulties getting published. Originally solicited by Harcourt, Brace and Company, the manuscript was rejected after the head of the trade division asked whether Holden was supposed to be crazy. After Little, Brown bought the manuscript, Salinger showed it to The New Yorker, assuming that the magazine, which had published several of his short stories, would want to print excerpts from the novel. Many critics were impressed by Holden as a character and, specifically, by his style of narration. Salinger was able to create a character whose relatability stemmed from his unreliability—something that resonated with many readers. Others, however, felt that the novel was amateur and unnecessarily coarse. When asked for the rights to adapt it for Broadway or Hollywood, he emphatically declined. The Catcher in the Rye was also linked to John W. Ronald Reagan in The novel remained influential into the 21st century; indeed, many American high schools included it in their curriculum. The novel has been banned numerous times because of its salty language and sexual content.

6: The Catcher in the Rye Chapter 1 Summary & Analysis from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

Get free homework help on J. D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye: book summary, chapter summary and analysis, quotes, essays, and character analysis courtesy of CliffsNotes. In J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye, Holden Caulfield recounts the days following his expulsion from Pencey Prep, a private school.

He says that he will tell us the readers of events occurring around Christmastime of the previous year. First, however, he mentions his older brother, D. Holden, a junior at Pencey, can see the field from where he stands, high atop Thomsen Hill. He has been expelled and is on his way to say good-bye to Mr. Spencer, his history instructor. At the end of the chapter, Holden arrives at Mr. From the beginning, we, the readers, realize that Holden is not a traditional narrator. Holden speaks in the vernacular of a teenager of his day the late s. The literary point of view is first-person singular, unique to Holden but easily accessible to the rebels, romantics, innocents, and dreamers of any generation. After stating that he will just tell us about the "madman stuff" that happened the previous December, Holden typically digresses to describe his brother, D. The setting for the early chapters in the flashback is Pencey Prep, a "terrible" school whose atmosphere seems as cold as the December air on Thomsen Hill. Holden has no love for prep schools. Although he oddly respects the academic standards of Pencey, he sees it as phony, if not evil. Magazine ads for the school, featuring horsemanship, are misleading because, Holden claims, he has never seen a horse anywhere near Pencey. After all, one of the students has stolen his winter coat and fur-lined gloves. Holden is not attending the football game for two reasons, both of which reveal a good deal about his character. First, Holden is careless and sometimes irresponsible. As manager of the fencing team, he left the equipment on the subway en route to a meet that morning with McBurney School in New York City. The team has returned to the school much earlier than it had planned. Second, Holden is on his way to bid farewell to his history teacher, Mr. Spencer, indicating that he does care about people. Holden has been expelled for academic failure and is not to return after Christmas break, which begins the following Wednesday. Even though he failed history with an abysmal performance, Holden does not blame the instructor. He likes old Spencer. Perhaps readers appreciate Holden more because he is not a perfect "hero. Writers often use personal experience as background. Holden may be a part of Salinger, but the first-person narrator should not be confused with the author. Holden has been expelled from Pencey Prep because he has flunked four subjects passing only English , including Mr. This is the first of several instances when Holden feels he is losing himself or falling into an abyss. He arrives at the Spencer home frozen and shaken.

7: A Look at The Catcher in the Rye Characters including a Critical Analysis of Holden Caulfield

Video: J.D. Salinger's Catcher in the Rye: Summary and Analysis J.D. Salinger's novel tells the story of Holden Caulfield, a literary figure you'll either love or hate. Watch this video to find.

The controversy surrounding it began almost simultaneously with its publication. Two decades later its rankings in both categories remained essentially unchanged. Those who defend the book, however, maintain that its multidimensional qualities justify teaching it in literature courses at all educational levels. During this adventure, Caulfield makes both an actual and symbolic journey. In New York, he not only finds diversion from the problems he is having at school, but he immerses himself in the place that he finds most confusing—the adult world. As he wanders the city, he visits bars, encounters a prostitute, calls an old girlfriend, helps several nuns, and sneaks home for a brief visit with his kid sister, Phoebe, whom he dearly loves. Caulfield discloses both the concrete details of his excursion to New York and the intimate details of his inner self. As an antihero, Caulfield finds it difficult to function in a system where nothing seems to be done for its own sake. Although he strives for a sense of normalcy, he knows that he will never attain it. Throughout the United States, parents have objected to the teaching of the book to their children in the public classroom because of its sexual content, references to drinking, rebellion, profanity, vulgarity, and prostitution. Other charges leveled against teaching the book have included its portrayal of an allegedly immoral figure who is a poor role model for youths, its negative depictions of adults, and its lack of literary value. Some who have fought to censor this novel have taken a middle ground, claiming that the book should not be read by high-school-age students because it contains primarily adult themes. Supporters have argued that if the book were removed from classrooms or libraries because of the objections of a few parents, all children would be harmed by such censorship. Those who have taught the book point out that it is much more than the tale of a misfit teenager. In using the antihero device, Salinger created a character with whom young readers can easily identify. However, this is exactly what has alarmed those who have wished to censor the book. Supporters of the book argue that those who call Caulfield a poor role model forget that he does want to become a hero to children. Indeed, the title of the book derives from a dream in which he stands in a rye field next to a cliff. As children run toward him, he catches them before they fall over the edge of the cliff. Symbolically, Caulfield is saving these children from becoming adults. He does not want himself or any children to fall into the adult world. For those against it, this represents just another negative characterization of adults, and that when coupled with the foul language and suggestive scenes also in the novel, it is inappropriate material to be taught in schools.

Bibliography Bloom, Harold, ed. Grunwald, Henry Anatole, ed. *A Critical and Personal Portrait*. Contains two important articles on *The Catcher in the Rye*. Laser, Marvin, and Norman Fruman, eds. Includes an intriguing essay by a German, Hans Bungert, another by a Russian writer, and one of the best structural interpretations of the novel, by Carl F. If You Really Want to Know: Contains reviews of the original publication of the novel. A sustained study of the novel. Contains a helpful section on the body of critical literature on the novel. Cambridge University Press, Provides an unusual sociological reading of the novel as well as an essay that firmly places the novel in American literary history. A study of the impact of the novel on its release during a nervous period in American social history.

8: The Catcher in the Rye Chapter 9 Summary & Analysis from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

The Catcher in the Rye is a story by J. D. Salinger, partially published in serial form in and as a novel in A classic novel originally published for adults, it has since become popular with adolescent readers for its themes of teenage angst and alienation.

The events he narrates take place in the few days between the end of the fall school term and Christmas, when Holden is sixteen years old. At Pencey, he has failed four out of five of his classes and has received notice that he is being expelled, but he is not scheduled to return home to Manhattan until Wednesday. He visits his elderly history teacher, Spencer, to say goodbye, but when Spencer tries to reprimand him for his poor academic performance, Holden becomes annoyed. Back in the dormitory, Holden is further irritated by his unhygienic neighbor, Ackley, and by his own roommate, Stradlater. Stradlater spends the evening on a date with Jane Gallagher, a girl whom Holden used to date and whom he still admires. Stradlater teases Holden, who flies into a rage and attacks Stradlater. Stradlater pins Holden down and bloodyies his nose. On the train to New York, Holden meets the mother of one of his fellow Pencey students. When he arrives at Penn Station, he goes into a phone booth and considers calling several people, but for various reasons he decides against it. He gets in a cab and asks the cab driver where the ducks in Central Park go when the lagoon freezes, but his question annoys the driver. Holden has the cab driver take him to the Edmont Hotel, where he checks himself in. From his room at the Edmont, Holden can see into the rooms of some of the guests in the opposite wing. He observes a man putting on silk stockings, high heels, a bra, a corset, and an evening gown. After smoking a couple of cigarettes, he calls Faith Cavendish, a woman he has never met but whose number he got from an acquaintance at Princeton. Holden thinks he remembers hearing that she used to be a stripper, and he believes he can persuade her to have sex with him. He calls her, and though she is at first annoyed to be called at such a late hour by a complete stranger, she eventually suggests that they meet the next day. After making some wisecracks about his age, they leave, letting him pay their entire tab. As Holden goes out to the lobby, he starts to think about Jane Gallagher and, in a flashback, recounts how he got to know her. They met while spending a summer vacation in Maine, played golf and checkers, and held hands at the movies. One afternoon, during a game of checkers, her stepfather came onto the porch where they were playing, and when he left Jane began to cry. Again, he asks the cab driver where the ducks in Central Park go in the winter, and this cabbie is even more irritable than the first one. Holden says he has to meet someone, leaves, and walks back to the Edmont. She sits on his lap and talks dirty to him, but he insists on paying her five dollars and showing her the door. Sunny returns with Maurice, who demands another five dollars from Holden. When Holden refuses to pay, Maurice punches him in the stomach and leaves him on the floor, while Sunny takes five dollars from his wallet. Holden goes to bed. They arrange to meet for a matinee showing of a Broadway play. He eats breakfast at a sandwich bar, where he converses with two nuns about Romeo and Juliet. He gives the nuns ten dollars. He tries to telephone Jane Gallagher, but her mother answers the phone, and he hangs up. Holden and Sally go to the play, and Holden is annoyed that Sally talks with a boy she knows from Andover afterward. They both skate poorly and decide to get a table instead. Holden tries to explain to Sally why he is unhappy at school, and actually urges her to run away with him to Massachusetts or Vermont and live in a cabin. She refuses to listen to his apologies and leaves. Holden calls Jane again, but there is no answer. Luce arranges to meet him for a drink after dinner, and Holden goes to a movie at Radio City to kill time. At Whooton, Luce had spoken frankly with some of the boys about sex, and Holden tries to draw him into a conversation about it once more. Holden continues to drink Scotch and listen to the pianist and singer. Then he goes to the lagoon in Central Park, where he used to watch the ducks as a child. It takes him a long time to find it, and by the time he does, he is freezing cold. He then decides to sneak into his own apartment building and wake his sister, Phoebe. He is forced to admit to Phoebe that he was kicked out of school, which makes her mad at him. When he tries to explain why he hates school, she accuses him of not liking anything. Phoebe tells him that he has misremembered the poem that he took the image from: Antolini, who tells Holden he can come to his apartment. Antolini asks Holden about his expulsion and tries to counsel him about his future. Antolini puts

him to bed on the couch. Holden awakens to find Mr. Antolini stroking his forehead. Antolini is making a homosexual overture, Holden hastily excuses himself and leaves, sleeping for a few hours on a bench at Grand Central Station. When Phoebe arrives, she is carrying a suitcase full of clothes, and she asks Holden to take her with him. He refuses angrily, and she cries and then refuses to speak to him. Knowing she will follow him, he walks to the zoo, and then takes her across the park to a carousel. He buys her a ticket and watches her ride it. It starts to rain heavily, but Holden is so happy watching his sister ride the carousel that he is close to tears.

9: The Catcher in the Rye Analysis - www.enganchecubano.com

Holden Caulfield, the year-old narrator and protagonist of the novel, speaks to the reader directly from a mental hospital or sanitarium in southern California. The novel is a frame story (a story within a certain fictional framework) in the form of a long flashback.

Each of these characters is metropolitan in outlook and situation and is introverted: Their battles are private wars of spirit, not outward conflicts with society. Gwynn and Joseph L. Blotner, in *The Fiction of J. Salinger*, offer an analysis of Salinger that claims he is the first writer in Western fiction to present transcendental mysticism in a satiric mode, or simply to present religious ideas satirically. Holden Caulfield does not react as a Buddhist would, nor does he seek consolation from Buddhism. The Glass family may mention Buddhism, but because of their acquaintance with all religions and their high intelligence and hyperkinetic thirst for knowledge, Salinger suggests that they have picked and chosen aspects from various religions and created a composite of them all. Holden Caulfield is no better or no worse than any young high school boy; he is merely a bit more articulate and honest in his appraisals, more open with his feelings. Even though the Glasses are brilliant, they are not cerebral or distanced from the reader because of their brilliance; and all the characters live in the same world and environment as the readers do. Even if he does not realize it, Holden does many of the things that he tells readers he hates. He is critical enough, however, to realize that these things are wrong. Although the family does not provide the haven that Salinger suggests it might, it is through coming home that the characters flourish, not by running away. Holden Caulfield, in *The Catcher in the Rye*, never realistically considers running away, for he realizes that flight cannot help him. At the critical moment his family may not be ready to grant him the salvation that he needs, but it is his only security. If the world is a place of squalor, perhaps it is only through perfect love within the family unit that an individual can find some kind of salvation. After confrontations with some fellow students at Pencey, Holden goes to New York City, his hometown, to rest before facing his parents. During the trip he tries to renew some old acquaintances, attempts to woo three out-of-towners, hires a prostitute named Sunny, and copes with recurring headaches. Eventually, after two meetings with his younger sister, Phoebe, he returns home. At the beginning of the novel he has told us that he is in California recovering from an illness and that he is reconciled with his family. Holden Caulfield is a confused sixteen-year-old, no better and no worse than his peers, except that he is slightly introverted, a little sensitive, and willing to express his feelings openly. His story can be seen as a typical growing process. As he approaches and is ready to cross the threshold into adulthood, he begins to get nervous and worried. His body has grown, but his emotional state has not. He is gawky, clumsy, and not totally in control of his body. He seeks to find some consolation, some help during this difficult time but finds no one. Antolini, merely lectures him drunkenly. The only people with whom he can communicate are the two young boys at the museum, the girl with the skates at the park, and his younger sister Phoebe: All of them are children, who cannot help him in his growing pains but remind him of a simpler time, one to which he wishes he could return. Eventually, he does cross the threshold his fainting in the museum and realizes that his worries were unfounded. At the end of the book, Holden seems ready to reintegrate himself into society and accept the responsibilities of adulthood. Although he castigates himself for doing some of the phony things, lying especially, Holden does realize that what he is doing is incorrect: This understanding sets him above his fellows; he knows what he is doing. Holden never hurts anyone in any significant way; his lies are small and harmless. Conversely, the phony world also spins lies, but they are dangerous since they harm people. For example, Holden mentions that Pencey advertises that it molds youth, but it does not. He is angry with motion pictures because they offer false ideals and hopes. Yet, his lies help a mother think better of her son. Like Huck Finn, he lies to get along, but not to hurt, and also like Huck, he tries to do good. Near the end of the novel Holden dreams of fleeing civilization and building a cabin out west, something that belies his earlier man-about-town conduct. By the end of the book, Holden has accepted a new positionâ€”an indiscriminating love for all humanity. He even expresses that he misses all the people who did wrong to him. Although not a Christ figure, Holden does acquire a Christlike positionâ€”perfect love of all humankind, good and evil. He is

not mature enough to know what to do with this love, but he is mature enough to accept it. In this world, realizing what is squalor and what is good and loving it all is the first step in achieving identity and humanity: Compassion is what Holden learns. Also, Jesus did not have time to analyze who would be perfect for his disciples; thus, they were not perfect and would have condemned Judas if they had had the chance. In this discussion, Holden points out his own dilemma, not having time to analyze his decisions, and his belief in the perfect love that he embraces at the end of the book. Although not a would-be saint, Holden does become a fuller human being through his experiences. He seeks to spare children the pain of growing up and facing the world of squalor. He also hopes to provide some useful, sincere activity in the world. The catcher-in-thereye job is one that Holden realizes is impractical in the world as it is. Only by facing the world and loving it indiscriminately can anyone live fully within it and have any hope of changing it. In the novel, Holden is also constantly preoccupied with death. He cries to Allie not to let him disappear. To Holden, the change from childhood to adulthood is a kind of death, a death he fears because of his conviction that he will become other than he is. This fear proves groundless by the end of the book. His name also provides a clue: His quest is to hold on to his adolescent self and to save other children from the pain of growth. His quest fails, but his compassion and the growth of his humanity provide him with better alternatives. Regarding sex, Holden tends to be puritanical. His trouble lies in the fact that he begins to feel sorry for the girls he dates, and he has too much compassion for them to defile their supposed virtue. This problem ties in with his compassion: He tries to see people as they are and not as types. He looks quickly and may make rash judgments, but once he talks to or acquaints himself with someone, he sees him or her as an individual. His mentioning of the boring boy he knew in school who could whistle better than anyone is the perfect example: Holden cannot help but confront people as individuals. Again, this shows his growing compassion and indiscriminate love. At Pencey, for example, he wants to protect a childhood friend named Jane Gallagher from Ward Stradlater, remembering that she always kept her kings in the back row in checker games and never used them. The Catcher in the Rye also reflects the art of a maturing author. Although there is no indication that Holden will become a novelist, there are clues scattered throughout the novel that he has an artistic sensibility. His sensitivity, his compassion, his powers of observation, and his references to himself as an exhibitionist are several such clues. Later, Salinger more fully develops the contrast between squalor and love in the world and reintroduces various elements of his Caulfield family saga in his grand design of charting the story of the Glass family.

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