

# Catcher in the Rye

## Chapters

1. Trying to Get a Goodbye
2. Old Spenser
3. Ackley Kid, Stradlater, and The Hat
4. Stradlater and Jane Gallagher
5. Allie's death and his mitt
6. Holden's fight with Stradlater
7. Ackley the Prince: Getting Lonely
8. Lying to Mrs. Morrow on the train
9. Perverts at the Edmont: Phoning Faith Cavendish
10. Three Girls in a Bar: Dancing with Bernice Krebs
11. Recollections of Jane
12. Ducks, Fish, Horowitz and Ernie at the Piano
13. Sex, Violence and Childhood: Sunny the Hooker
14. Maurice Collects the hard way: Suicidal feelings
15. Nuns, Suitcases and Money
16. Kids and the Museum: Catcher in the Rye
17. Hating Sally (and the Lunts)
18. The Movie at Radio City
19. Old Luce in the Wicker Bar
20. Madman Drunk, Lonely & Dying
21. Old Phoebe Weatherfield Caulfield
22. Catcher in the Rye
23. Dancing with Phoebe
24. Mr. and Mrs. Antolini
25. Phoebe Heals Holden
26. Missing Everybody

## Vignettes (page references)

Harris Machlin (the whistler) 123  
Estelle Flectcher (singer) 114  
Arthur Childs (and Jesus) 99  
Louis Shaney (the Catholic) 112  
Al Pike (diver) 135  
Dick Stagle ('s suitcases) 108  
Bob Robinson ('s inferiority complex) 136  
Janine (phony French singer) 142  
Richard Kinsella (won't stick to the point) 183  
James Castle (wouldn't lie: suicide) 170  
Carl Luce (the intellectual) 136  
Fred Woodruff 52  
Faith Cavendish 63-4

## Inventories

(This is a practice I developed for reading novels when I knew I had to teach or write about them. I would simply begin a list of characters, places, emerging images or symbols, etc. and keep track of pages on which references to them occurred. It also led me to stop every once in a while and make some interpretive notes about the indexed item. I have suggested the method at various times to students. Some, naturally, regard it as too interruptive and time-consuming for their reading.)

Catcher in the Rye: 115, 173

Movies: 2, 29, 37, 96\*, 104\*, 116-\* 137, 164

Holden's intuitive manner of story-telling (words are not enough): 122, 131\*, 169, 183\*

DB: 1, 80, 140

false images: 2

being in the mood: 137

HOLDEN: 4, 5, 36, 40, 41, 46, 48, 50, 52\*, 62\*, 107, 112, 121, 131\*, 143, 145\*, 170\*, 172-3\*, 188\*, 198-9, 108

Ugly things with a kind of beauty: 3, 70, 124, 158\*

Allie: 155, 171\*, 198\*

Ducks: 13, 60, 82\*, 153

Paradox/Ironies of life: 4, 28, 62, ch.13, 110/11, 114, 139/40, 155

Phoney: 14, 16, 26, 27, 49-50\*, 53, 54/5, 77, 85/6/7, 100, 106, 117, 139, 141

Lying: 16, 55\*- 96, 125\*

The Red Hunting Hat: 17, 22\*, 27, 29, 34, 37, 45, 52, 53, 61, 88, 122, 153, 157, 180\*, 207, 212\*

Sally Hayes: 20, 105- 116

Horsing Around: 21, 29, 42, 103/4, 125, 150, 153, 172\*, 175, 197

Jane Gallagher: 31, 42, 76

Sex: 37, 110, 125, 54, 56, 62/3\*, 73, 76-, 90-\* 143, ch19, ch24, 195

Allie's mitt: 38

Phoebe: 59, 66, 114, 117, ch21, 167

Antolini: 136, 173

Direct address to audience: (you) 27, 38, 68, 67, 84,

Depression/Lonliness: 81, 48-52\*, 84, 90\*, 99\*, 104\*, 115\*, 149, 153

Dying/Disappearing/Falling: 103, 155, 162/3\*, 186, 197\*

Narrative digression: allies red hair, the suitcases (108) 88/9

The Caulfield Sensibility (right and wrong ways for things): p115 song, earnies piano playing, acting 117, actors 126, what jesus would really be like 137/8

## **A Review Assignment**

The book has just been publish. You write for a magazine whose readers are young high school students. Your editor wants you to review "Catcher" because other magazines are giving it a lot of attentions. You are assigned 400 words in which to state your opinion. Your readers, of course, want to know what the book has to say that is so controversial and whether they should spend the money and time to read the book.

## **Log assignment**

Keep a log on each chapter of the book as you read it. The idea here is not so much to record what happens, although that can be a part of it, as to record your responses. For example, how do you evaluate and re-evaluate Holden as the book goes along. Imagine that you are a psychiatrist who has to form an understanding of this fellow and that the book is a set of notes he has given you to help. What do these notes reveal?

When you are done keeping the log, re-read it in order to write up an evaluation of Holden's predicament.

## **Debates (or essays?)**

The following are some resolutions for debates concerning Catcher in The Rye.

### **Be It Resolved that:**

1. Holden is insane.
2. Holden is a positive person.
3. Holden tells the truth about life.
4. Holden's relationship with females is normal.
5. Holden is mature beyond his years.
6. Despite the fact that Holden is messed up, he becomes a heroic figure.

7. Holden is a real kid.
8. Parents should be delighted to have this book taught in high schools.

## Questions

The following are some general questions about the novel which might be useful for essays or presentations.

1. Explain how any of the following things in the story help us to evaluate Holden's character:

- the ducks
- the red hunting hat
- the museum
- Holden's language

2. Holden has quite a rich fantasy life. Recall the bit about being shot, the bit about going away into a hut on the edge of the woods, the bit about falling off the curbs of street corners. What does any one of these reveal about Holden's state of mind?

3. What is at the bottom of Holden's special relationship with Allie?