

# The catcher in the rye book report



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Title: The Catcher in the Rye Author: J. D. Salinger Date of Publication: July, 1951  
The Historical Period The historical period in which this was written suggest that the feelings and emotions of this book toward society must have been amplified because this was immediately after World War II and the writer may have had strong feelings about the war that could have translated into the character, Holden Caulfield, view on society.

Characteristics of this Genre Realistic fiction is the best genre fit for this book because even though the people don't exist, it could easily happen in real life. It is also timeless because even though this was written close to two years ago, most teens could relate to some parts because the difficulties of teenagers haven't varied much in half a dozen decades. The book's accurate description of young males' struggles makes this a great example of Realistic Fiction.

Image Author On January 1st, 1919, a great writer was brought into the world by Les and Bessie Salinger. They gave him the name Jerome David Salinger, but would soon be known as J. D.

Salinger. Growing up in New York with an older sister and his parents were in the upper class. However, his father thought it would be best to enroll him in military school and graduated in 1936. He was fascinated with literature from a young age because he would volunteer in extracurricular activities like the school's literary magazine. In the summer of 1951, he release his most famous book The Catcher in the Rye, a book about a troubled boy that wants to leave society and live alone in a cabin. J.

B, died on January 27th, 2010 in his home in New Hampshire of natural causes. He will forever be remembered by his incredible works of art. Plot Points \* Holden Caulfield, a troublesome and immature teenage boy, gets kicked out of another school \* Holden takes as much money as he can to New York City and hopes to wait until his parents get to digest the news of his expulsion \* Holden goes bar hopping and runs into an old girlfriend of his brothers but makes an excuse to leave because he can't stand her \* Holden meets with a prostitute and doesn't do anything other than talk to her but her pimp ends up scamming \$10 from him when he agreed on \$5 \* He makes a date with an attractive girl named Sally the next day and when she refuses to run off into the woods with him, he calls her a "pain in the ass" \* After that he meets up with a more intellectual acquaintance but leaves quickly after he made childish comments about gays and his Asian girlfriend. \* Next, he visits his little sister Phoebe but she gets mad when he says he got kicked out of Pencey and he talks about his dream about catching people before they fall off a cliff \* He then gets petted by a former teacher and when he gets freaked out, he slept at Grand Central Station for a bit before deciding he was going to run off and pretend to be deaf \* He wants to say his last good-byes to Phoebe and she wants to go with him but when he refuses to let her go with him, he takes her to the zoo and promises he'd stay

SettingThe setting in this book is at a unique time and place in history. It takes place around the early 1950's in New York City.

Since it is right before Mr. Caulfield's Christmas break, we can safely assume it is roughly a week from Christmas and the middle of winter. His parents appear to be in the upper class because they live in New York City,

his father is a lawyer, and they can afford to send their son Holden to many private schools. Conflicts 1. Holden vs. Society.

Holden doesn't like society because he feels that everyone is phony.

Because of this, society never accepts him and because he doesn't apply himself to anything. 2.

Holden vs. Self. Holden is his own enemy in some sense because he can't deal with the pressures of life and sees everyone as fake in the most critical ways.

3. Holden vs. Maurice/Sunny. When Holden gets a hooker, he agrees with her pimp, Maurice, that he would pay \$5 for some time with her. Afterwards, Sunny says Holden owes him \$10 but he only pays \$5. Later, they come back to his room and take the \$5 extra and Maurice punches Holden in the stomach.

4. Holden vs. Himself. Another way he fights against himself is that throughout the book he looks for a sexual encounter but when he has the chance to, he can't bring himself to do it. Climax The climax in this book is when Holden decides he is going to run off into the woods. He doesn't like the phony people and society so he plans on pretending to be deaf so he doesn't have to talk to people. However, when Phoebe finds out about this when he says good-bye to her, she gets him to stay in New York City.

Conflict Resolutions 1. When the end of the book came, he never said he accepted society but I think he is willing to accept society for his little sister, Phoebe. 2. At the end of the book it doesn't say on whether or not he

gets his issues resolved but at the beginning of the book it is apparent that his is in some sort of mental institution and possibly treating him. 3. Even when Holden fights back to keep them from stealing his money, he is punched hard because he isn't very strong or fit. After that, Holden tries to stay far from Maurice and never gets his money back. 4.

When the book finished up, he never had a sexual encounter with anyone even though he tried hard to get one. But I think he's okay with that because he truly loves his sister and doesn't need any other girl in his life. Characterization 1. Physical Description. Holden Caulfield is around 16 and is an abnormally large 6'2". He has some grey hair so people assume he's much older than he really is and because of this he can access alcohol more easily. He is also very weak because he smokes a lot and he is very talented in English but struggles in every other subject.

2. Other characters think that Holden is a failure for getting kicked out yet again. Phoebe, for example, is very mad at Holden when she finds out he's been kicked out.

People also think he's immature such as Ward Stradlater, his roommate.

3. Holden curses a lot, smokes heavily, and drinks like there's no tomorrow throughout the book which leads me to believe he's not a good person. He also criticizes the disciples in the bible and searches for a sexual partner in the book. However, he does show a great deal of love for his sister all through the book. 4. The narrator, Holden Caulfield, says that he can either be very immature or extremely mature depends on his mood.

He also portrays that he is the only genuine person in world.

Vocabulary  
Flit ??“ page 142  
A male homosexual  
T. B. (Tuberculosis) ??“ page 5  
An infectious disease that can especially attack the lungs  
Ostracize ??“ page 166  
To exclude from society, friendship, conversations, etc.  
Inferiority Complex ??“ page 108  
Lack of self-esteem or feeling inadequate  
Grippe ??“ page 6  
Influenza  
Questions 1.

Why does Holden feel that everyone around him is phony 2. Why has this book been banned and should it be banned 3. Should the novel have ended the way it did and if not, how should it end  
Themes 1. One theme in the book is the big difference between the adult life and the child life. The adult life is full of prostitution, lying, phoniness, and self-centered people where as it shows children (like Phoebe) as nice and caring people. He doesn't want to grow up because he's afraid of becoming phony. He sees the many differences between the adults and children.

2. Another theme is rebellion. Holden doesn't fit into society so he rebels throughout the novel. He drinks, smokes heavily, and hires prostitutes even though he doesn't have sexual relations with her. He also has no friends and can't be in a relationship because he finds even the smallest faults in people.

His rebellion was very apparent to everyone. 3. The book also shows the affect of traumatic experiences can have on a child. He had many traumatic experiences like the death of his brother Allie, feeling abandoned by his parents, friends and teachers, and trying to live on his own in New York City for a few days. As it shows in the novel, he begins to have warped view on

society such as having material things made you phony. He also lied to practically everyone he met and wanted to run off into the woods. Those kinds of trauma on children can have drastic outcomes. Theme Examples 1.

An example of this theme is when Holden sees the words ??? Fuck you??? in the school. When he sees that everywhere in the school it angers him because he wants to protect little kids from adult life because the life of children is far too innocent for the harshness of the adult life. 2.

Rebellion happens all throughout the book but one instance jumps out at me. When Holden hires a prostitute and doesn't do anything with her, he didn't do that because he wanted sexual relations, he did that because he wanted to get back at society for corrupting people and making them phony. Holden is a major rebel in this book. 3. One example of this is in a strange moment. When Holden starts walking down the streets of New York City, he talks to Allie, his dead brother, and asks him to protect him from a nonexistent danger. Holden's mind is so traumatized that he senses false dangers and asks for protection from his dead brother because he's the only thing safe to him.

Holden has some interesting fantasies. Quotation??? I felt like jumping out the window. I probably wouldve, too, if Id been sure somebodyd cover me up as soon as I landed. I didnt want a bunch of stupid rubbernecks looking at me when I was all gory.??? I think this covers the major issue in this novel because it shows Holden's true feelings, what's holding Holden back, and what Holden despises. First of all, this shows that Holden can't keep

living the way he??™s living because he seriously concedes suicide as an option and it desperate for a way out.

Also, it shows that Holden is easily embarrassed because he would be embarrassed at people looking at him when he??™s dead. Finally, it shows that he despises the people of New York City because he thinks they??™re all phonies and rubbernecks. This sentence covers the main feelings of Holden throughout the novel.

Works Cited” The Catcher in the Rye Quotes, Famous Catcher in the Rye Quotes Quotations Sayings.” Famous Quotes, Famous Quotations & Sayings, Great Quotes. Web. 23 Aug. 2010.

com/catcher\_in\_the\_rye\_quotes4.shtml>. Salinger, J. D.

The Catcher in the Rye. Boston: Little, Brown, 1951. Print. By Patrick R.

O??™ Connor Name of Significant Character:| Relationship to Other Characters:| Three Adjectives to Describe Character:| Purpose/ Function in Story:| Holden Caulfield| Went to Pency and is part of the Caulfield family| Immature, rebellious, and mean| Narrator and protagonist| Sally Hayes| Holden??™s ex-girlfriend and friend| Beautiful, nice, and funny| Goes on a date with Holden| Maurice| Runs the hotel elevator and is Sunny??™s pimp| Aggressive, assertive, and criminal| Gets Holden a prostitute and cons him out of \$5 by hurting him| Sunny| A prostitute for Maurice| Rude, attractive, and phatic| Holden hires her as a prostitute| Phoebe Caulfield| Holden??™s sister| Smart, innocent, and caring| Convinces Holden to stay at home and not run away| D. B. Caulfield| Holden??™s older brother| Creative, smart, and

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resourceful| Holden sees how he??™s an example of phoniness| Allie  
Caulfield| Holden??™s younger brother| Nice, athletic, and poetic| Holden  
remembers him often and uses his glove in a composition|