The Catcher in the Rye

By J.D. Salinger

Study Guide Packet

11th Grade English
## Character List

**Directions:** on the line, write the character name that matches the description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>The protagonist and narrator of the novel; a sixteen-year-old junior who has just been expelled for academic failure from a school called Pencey Prep.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>The narrator’s roommate at Pencey Prep. He is handsome, self-satisfied, and popular, but the narrator calls him a “secret slob,” because he appears well groomed, but his has sloppy personal habits. He is sexually active and quite experienced for a prep school student, which is why the narrator calls him a “sexy bastard.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>The narrator’s next-door neighbor in his dorm at Pencey Prep. He is a pimply, insecure boy with terrible dental hygiene.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>The narrator’s former English teacher at the Elkton Hills School. He now teaches at New York University.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>A girl with whom the narrator spent a lot of time one summer, when their families stayed in neighboring summer houses in Maine. She never actually appears in the novel, but she is extremely important, because she is one of the few girls whom the narrator both respects and finds attractive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>The narrator’s ten-year-old sister, whom he loves dearly. Although she is six years younger than him, she listens to what he says and understands him more than most other people do.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>Holden’s younger brother. He dies of leukemia three years before the start of the novel</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>The narrator’s older brother. He wrote a volume of short stories that the narrator admires very much.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>A very attractive girl whom the narrator has known and dated for a long time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>The narrator’s history teacher at Pencey Prep, who unsuccessfully tries to shake the narrator out of his academic apathy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>A student at Columbia who was the narrator’s student advisor at the Whooton School. He is three years older than the narrator and has a great deal of sexual experience. At Whooton, he was a source of knowledge about sex for the younger boys, and Holden tries to get him to talk about sex at their meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>The prostitute whom the narrator hires through an elevator operator. She is one of a number of women in the book with whom Holden clumsily attempts to connect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>__________</td>
<td>The elevator operator at the Edmont Hotel, who procures a prostitute for the narrator.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter One (pages 1-6)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

1) On page one it says: "I got pretty run down and had to come out here and take it easy." Where is “out here”?
Hypothesize.
2) How old is Holden now? How old was he when his story takes place?
3) What are Holden's thoughts about his school, Pency? Why was he leaving?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Two (pages 6-16)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

4) What does Holden think of Mr. Spencer? Why is he visiting him?
5) Page 9 is the first time Holden brings up his age/maturity. What does he say? From the little you know of him, do you believe him?
6) How does Holden feel about flunking? Provide proof.

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Three (pages 16-26)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

7) Holden claims he is a “terrific liar”. Why? What does he say?
8) What does Holden say about Ossenburger Memorial Wing and the person it is named after?
9) What did Holden buy in New York?
10) What does Holden say about Ackley? Describe him. What bothers Holden about him so much?
11) Describe Stradlater. What does Holden think/say about him?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Four (pages 26-35)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

12) What is irony? What is ironic about what Stradlater asks Holden to do?
13) What do Ackley and Stradlater say about Holden's hat?
14) Who is Stradlater's date? How does Holden react? How did he know her?
15) What does Holden want Stradlater to ask Jane?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.
Chapter Five (pages 35-39)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

16) Why does Holden think Pency serves steak on Saturday?
17) What did Holden do Saturday night? Whom did he go with?
18) What did Ackley tell Holden about back at the dorm? What did Holden think about that?
19) What did Holden write Stradlater’s paper on? Why? What is so special about it?
20) Who is Allie? What happened to Allie and how did Holden react?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Six (pages 40-46)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

22) How did Stradlater react to the paper?
23) Was Holden concerned about Stradlater’s night with Jane? Why or why not? Provide proof. What did he suspect?
24) What happened between Holden and Stradlater when Holden kept pestering Stradlater?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Seven (pages 46-53)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

25) Who did Holden go talk to after the Stradlater debacle? Why?
26) When Ackley kept asking about the ordeal with Stradlater? How did Holden reply?
27) What did Holden keep thinking about all night? Why?
28) What did Holden wake Ackley up to ask him? Why?
29) What did Holden decide to do after leaving Ackley’s room? Why?
30) What is the deal with the red hunting hat? Even Holden admitted it is corny, but he always wears it. Hypothesize.

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.
Chapter Eight (pages 53-58)
Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

31) How did Holden get to New York?
32) What did the woman who sat down next to Holden ask? How did he reply?
33) What did he ask Mrs. Morrow to do? How did he explain that he could get away with it?
34) What did he tell her he was going home early for?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Nine (pages 59-66)
Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

35) What was the first thing Holden did when he got off the train? Why?
36) What did Holden ask the cabbie after he asked him to turn around? How did the cabbie respond? Any guesses as to Holden’s fascination with the ducks.
37) Why do you think Holden asked the cabbie for cocktails? Hypothesize.
38) What did Holden do when he first got to the hotel? Describe each thing he says. What did he think of each one?
39) What does Holden think of girls?
40) Who did Holden call? Where did he get her number? What is unique about her? What did he ask her? How did she reply?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Ten (pages 66-76)
Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

41) What did Holden do after he hung up the phone?
42) Who else did Holden think of calling? Why didn’t he? Describe her as Holden did.
43) What type of people did Holden see in the lobby? Describe them.
44) What did Holden order and how did he ask? Why? What did he end up getting?
45) What did Holden think of the three girls next to him? Why did he ask them to dance?
46) How did the blonde girl react when Holden kissed her on top of the head? Why did he do it?
47) What did he tell the girls his name was? Why?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.
Chapter Eleven (pages 1-6)
Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

48) At the beginning of this chapter, he talks about Jane again. What does he say? The way Holden describes her, what do you think—is he in love with her or is he sentimental in general? Explain.
49) Why did he leave the hotel? Where did he go? Why?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Twelve (pages 81-87)
Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

50) What did Holden ask the cabbie this time? What is Holden’s hypothesis regarding the question? What did the cabbie say?
51) Why did he ask this cabbie out for drinks?
52) What was the scene like at Ernie’s?
53) What does Holden think about the piano player, Ernie?
54) What were the people like around Holden’s table? What did he think of them?
55) Who recognized Holden? What did Holden think of her?
56) Why did he leave Ernie’s?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Thirteen (pages 88-98)
Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

57) On is 41-block hike to the hotel, Holden is imagining an argument over his gloves? Does it seem like something Holden would do? Why or why not? What does Holden have to say about it?
58) Describe and paraphrase Holden’s “big mess”.

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Fourteen (pages 98-104)
Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

59) What does Holden think about religion?
60) Who knocked on Holden’s door? What did they want?
62) What did Holden fantasize after that?
63) What were Holden’s final thoughts as he fell asleep? Why didn’t he go through with it?
**Vocabulary:** On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

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**Chapter Fifteen (pages 105-113)**

**Questions:** On your own paper, answer each question using a **complete sentence(s).**

64) Who did Holden call the next day? Why?
65) What is the one word Holden hates? Why?
66) Where did Holden go when he hung up the phone?
67) Who sits next to Holden at the counter? What did Holden do? Is it true to Holden’s personality?

**Vocabulary:** On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

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**Chapter Sixteen (pages 113-122)**

**Questions:** On your own paper, answer each question using a **complete sentence(s).**

68) How did Holden kill time before his date with Sally?
69) Why does Holden want to go to the record store? What does he buy? For whom?
70) What was the little boy singing when Holden passed him? Why did it make Holden “feel better”?
71) Who did Holden call from a phone booth? Why did he hang up when her mom answered?
72) What does Holden buy tickets for? Why? If he hates actors (in plays), why does he want to go?
73) What does Holden do next? Why? Where did the little girl say Phoebe was? Why does Holden think she is not there?
74) Why does Holden go to the above-mentioned place anyway? **THIS IS KEY!** He talks about it many times.

**Vocabulary:** On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

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**Chapter Seventeen (pages 123-134)**

**Questions:** On your own paper, answer each question using a **complete sentence(s).**

75) What does Holden call “really nice sightseeing”?
76) What does he say about guys?
77) What was Holden’s first thought when he saw Sally?
78) Why does Holden describe all the people sanding around as “phonies”?
79) What did Sally suggest they do after the play? What did they do instead?
81) What was Holden’s idea? Does he seem to be going mad? What does Sally say?
82) Holden says, “I swear to God I’m a madman”...do you agree? Explain.

**Vocabulary:** On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.
Chapter Eighteen (pages 135-141)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

83) Who does Holden think about after his fizzled date?
84) Holden seems desperate for someone to call. Is he? Who does he call next?
85) At this point, Holden seems very smart. He likes intelligent conversation, etc., so why does he fail at school?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Nineteen (pages 141-149)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

86) Where does Holden meet his friend?
87) What does Holden think about the old performers?
88) What type of people does Holden see at the Whicker Bar?
89) How did Holden meet his friend? What did he use to do back then? What does Holden think of him?
90) Holden tries to talk about sex and Luce asks him when he will grow up. Obviously, Luce has. How does this make Holden feel? Explain.
91) What did Luce tell Holden that he needed?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Twenty (pages 149-157)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

93) Who does he want to call after leaving the bar? Who does he actually call?
94) What all did Holden do and who did he talk to when he was drunk?
95) Where did he walk after leaving the bar? What happened to Phoebe’s record?
96) What does Holden think of death? What does he hope happens to him when he dies?
97) Where does Holden decide to go?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Twenty-One (pages 157-166)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

98) What was Holden’s “big break”? Why?
99) What did he sneak around his own house?
100) What did he do in DB’s room? Why was Phoebe in there?
101) Describe Phoebe’s reaction to Holden.
102) Why does Holden relax?
103) How does Phoebe react to Holden’s expulsion?

**Vocabulary:** On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

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**Chapter Twenty-Two (pages 166-174)**

**Questions:** On your own paper, answer each question using a **complete sentence(s).**

104) What is Holden’s explanation for being expelled?
105) Phoebe notes that Holden “[doesn’t] like any schools” and “[doesn’t] like a million things”. How does he reply? What does he say he likes?
106) What does Holden say is dream job? What does he say about the “Catcher in the rye”? How does Phoebe correct him? What does it make him picture?
107) Who does Holden call?

**Vocabulary:** On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

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**Chapter Twenty-Three (pages 174-180)**

**Questions:** On your own paper, answer each question using a **complete sentence(s).**

108) Who is Mr. Antolini?
109) What does Phoebe and Holden do before he leaves?
110) Where does Holden hide when his mom comes?
111) When their mom asks Phoebe if she was smoking, how does Phoebe reply? How, in turn, does their mom react?
112) What does Phoebe give Holden?
113) Why did that make him cry? What did he give her?

**Vocabulary:** On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

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**Chapter Twenty-Four (pages 180-193)**

**Questions:** On your own paper, answer each question using a **complete sentence(s).**

114) How did Mr. Antolini greet Holden?
115) Does Mr. Antolini ridicule Holden? What does he say?
116) What does the paper say that Mr. Antolini gives Holden?
117) What does Holden wake up to? What is going through Holden’s mind?

**Vocabulary:** On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.
Chapter Twenty-Five (pages 194-213)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

118) Where does Holden go after the Antolini’s? What does he do?
119) What was Holden thinking of Mr. Antolini now?
120) Why did Holden say, “it...was a gorgeous way to talk about a Christmas tree.” They why do you think he laughs?
121) What was “spooky” that Holden felt? Who did he keep talking to?
122) What did he fantasize after that?
123) Why did Holden go to the Elementary school?
124) What did Holden see on the wall? How did he feel and what did he do? Why?
125) Why does Holden see it necessary to erase the “F*** You’s”? Why is it impossible, according to Holden? How does he feel about that?
126) What can you tell about how Holden feels about kids by the way he treats the kids at the museum?
127) Again, Holden sees the “F*** You” at the museum. What does he think?
128) What did Phoebe have with her? What does she say about it? What does Holden say? How did Phoebe react?
129) Where do they go? Where else?
130) What is Holden’s thought about kids reaching for the gold rings?
131) Here Holden brings up a VERY important thing about the red hat—what does he say? (Top of page 213)
132) Why was Holden suddenly so happy? What is so special about the carrousel?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Chapter Twenty-Six (pages 213-214)

Questions: On your own paper, answer each question using a complete sentence(s).

133) Where is Holden right now? What does he mean by “got sick”?
134) What does the last paragraph say to you, the reader? “Don’t ever tell anybody anything. If you do, you’ll start missing everybody. What does this mean?

Vocabulary: On your own paper, identify 5 words from the chapter that you didn’t know and define them.

Now take the AR test on The Catcher in the Rye! Make sure to get a printout of your score and turn it in with this packet!