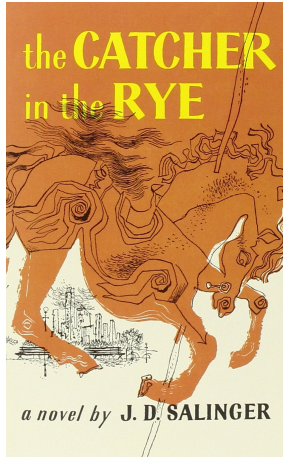


Riviera Schools

2022 Required Summer Reading for 10th Grade Students



The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

The hero-narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye* is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it.

There are many voices in this novel: children's voices, adult voices, underground voices-but Holden's voice is the most eloquent of all. Transcending his own vernacular, yet remaining marvelously faithful to it, he issues a perfectly articulated cry of mixed pain and pleasure. However, like most lovers and clowns and poets of the higher orders, he keeps most of the pain to, and for, himself. The pleasure he gives away, or sets aside, with all his heart. It is there for the reader who can handle it to keep.

Excerpted from: <http://www.amazon.com>

You must purchase a **hard copy** of the book as annotations are required.

Remember:

- Always read over your finished work!
- Type your responses.
- Double space.
- Times New Roman or Arial – Font –Size 12
- Send your work through spell and grammar check.
- Put the heading on the top left of your paper →
- Do not “share” any work with your peers.

John Doe

Teacher Name (leave blank for now)

English 10

22 August 2022

Before reading:

- Watch the youtube video about J.D. Salinger:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_eBi9wgK2U
- Watch the youtube video about *The Catcher in the Rye*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTPDpGFGEJY>

During reading: Answer the following questions in complete sentences as you read, annotate, and **highlight** your novel.

1. It seems evident from the start of the novel that Holden Caulfield has a tough time fitting in no matter what school he attends. What are some characteristics of Pencey Prep that should make him feel more at home in his surroundings and what seem to be some characteristics of the school that get under Holden's skin?
2. At least while he is at Pencey, is there anyone whom Holden seems to like? Name at least two people Holden considers worthy of his attention and what he seems to like about those individuals. Use as many examples as possible.
3. During his last conversation with "Old Spence", what seems to be bothering Holden the most? How is Old Spence a conscience-type figure and what are two or three important lessons that the teacher tries to impart to Holden before he officially flunks out of school?
4. What does Holden really mean when he uses the term "phony"? Are there some aspects of the world around him that he genuinely thinks are phony? What is ironic about his frequent use of the term phony?
5. What is the significance of the baseball mitt story? Do you think Holden made a mistake by throwing out the essay? Why do you think of all the memories of his brother, that's the one that stands out the most?
6. Holden's red hunting hat comes up several times in the story. What is the symbolism behind the hat and how does his character seem to change based on whether he is wearing it forwards or backwards?
7. Why do you think Holden wants to know where the ducks go during the winter? He asks the question on several occasions. Is it out of a natural curiosity or insecure need for conversation, or some other motive entirely?

8. Naturally they are quite different ages, but how is the dynamic different in Holden's relationship with his younger sister versus his older brother DB? What qualities does he see in his sister that he does not find in his older brother? Elaborate as much as possible.
9. The author waits until rather far in the novel to suggest the meaning of the title of the novel. What to you is the meaning of the title and how is it ironic about how the title relates to Holden?
10. Which of Holden's misadventures in NY are the most outlandish? You can name more than one. Do you think Holden acts as someone who feels entitled to live on the edge or is it simply beyond his control at this point? Along those lines, what would you recommend he does to find stability in his life?
11. Do you think Phoebe is too loyal to her brother? Why or why not?

After reading: Respond to one of the following prompts. Your response should be less than 200 words yet clearly demonstrate your understanding of the novel. For both topics, try to use at least one quote from literary critics to support your assertions.

Your work must be double-spaced, properly paragraphed, written in clean, intelligent sentences and using proper capitalization and punctuation.

Topic 1: You are in charge of persuading incoming college freshmen, surprisingly none of whom have ever read "The Catcher in the Rye" why it is a must-read novel. You are to write a persuasive letter to them explaining why not reading "Catcher in the Rye" would be detrimental to their literary lives. Give as many reasons as possible and try to hook in the freshmen by giving a little general background about what makes for good books in general.

Topic 2: "Catcher in the Rye" has taken on iconic status for several reasons, one of which is that the story seems to lack any type of heroic or idealized characters. In your estimation, is Holden an anti-hero? Along those lines, why do you think the novel is controversial and do you think it accurately portrays teenage life? Use as much evidence as possible..