***Catcher in the Rye***

**Study Guide**

**Chapter 1**

1. Setting. Where is Holden at the beginning of the book?

2. Where is the school?

3. Where does the flashback start?

**Chapter 2**

1. What are Holden’s feelings about old Spencer?

2. What is Holden’s description of himself?

3. How do Holden’s thoughts differ from what he is saying and how he is behaving toward Spencer?

4. Does this make Holden a phony?

**Chapter 3**

1. Why did he choose a red hunting hat?

2. Describe old Ackley.

3. What is the significance of Holden’s reading favorites?

4. What is Stradlater like?

**Chapter 4**

1. How does Holden feel about Stradlater?

2. What does Holden do for Ackley and Stradlater?

3. Does Holden “read” his friends accurately?

4. Why doesn’t Holden go down and talk to Jane?

**Chapter 5**

1. What is alike in the way Ackley and Holden act? Does this make Holden a phony?

2. What does the reader learn about Holden’s brother Allie?

3. What was Holden’s reaction to Allie’s death?

**Chapter 6**

1. Why does Holden get angry at Stradlater?

2. Why does Stradlater hit him?

**Chapter 7**

1. Why does Holden decide to leave Pencey?

2. How do the guys treat him the night he leaves?

**Chapter 8**

1. How does Holden’s view of Ernest Morrow differ from Ernest’s mother’s view?

2. Does Morrow’s mother catch on that Holden is lying?

**Chapter 9**

1. Why did Holden give the cab driver his home address?

2. What is the significance of Holden’s concern for the ducks?

3. How does Holden’s call to Faith Cavendish illustrate his insecurities and contradictions?

**Chapter 10**

1. What is Holden’s view of Phoebe?

**Chapter 11**

1. How do you feel Jane G. felt about Holden?

**Chapter 12**

1. Why is Holden so worried about the ducks?

2. What is his opinion of the dating couples near him? Does he project any of his own problems on the faults of others?

3. How do the cabdriver and Lilian feel about Holden?

**Chapter 13**

1. How does Holden see himself acting with a “crook” who stole his gloves?

2. How does the action above contrast with what he actually does when people cheat him?

**Chapter 14**

1. Why doesn’t Holden turn to religion in his misery?

2. How did Holden react to Sunny and Maurice’s demands?

3. Compare his mental revenge to his actual reaction.

**Chapter 15**

1. Anything hypocritical in Holden’s view of Sally Hayes? Or in his estimate of Slagle and the suitcases?

**Chapter 16**

1. When does he wear the red hunting cap?

2. Why doesn’t he go into the mus

**Chapter 17**

1. On the date with Sally Hayes, what self-insight does Holden show?

2. Why does Sally get mad at him? Why does he get fed up with her?

3. What inner contradictions in Holden are displayed in this chapter?

**Chapter 18**

1. What is ironic about Holden’s visit to Radio City Music Hall?

**Chapter 19**

1. How does “Old Luce” regard Holden?

**Chapter 20**

1. What is the significance of “People never give your message to anybody”?

2. Why does Holden never phone Jane?

3. Why did Holden do his “bullet in the guts” number again?

4. What events in this chapter seem to parallel what is happening to Holden emotionally?

5. Why does he decide to go home?

**Chapter 21**

1. What significance is there to the movie plots mentioned throughout the book?

2. What is Phoebe’s reaction to Holden’s being kicked out of Pencey?

3. How do you believe Holden feels about this reaction?

**Chapter 22**

1. What type of things does Holden dislike about Pencey?

2. What does he like?

3. What does he want to be? Why?

4. What makes him thing of Antolini here?

**Chapter 23**

1. Why does Holden cry?

**Chapter 24**

1. Why did “oral expression” bother Holden?

2. What is Holden’s physical state in this chapter?

3. What is Antolini’s prediction for Holden?

4. What are the benefits of education as Antolini sees them

5. Did Antolini really make a pass at Holden? Explain why you believe as you do.

**Chapter 25**

1. What is the “very spooky” thing that happens to Holden?

2. What do you think is really happening to him?

3. Why does H. want to be a deaf-mute?

4. What depresses him at Phoebe’s school? Why?

5. What happens in this tomb? Why is it significant?

6. How does H. become a “catcher” in this chapter?

**Chapter 26**

1. Where is Holden in this chapter?

2. What do you think will become of him?