

## Monday – Catcher in the Rye – Reading Guide

Hanna  
Vocab  
Pages 1-6

**Bashing-** violent physical assault

“... you could see the two teams bashing each other all over the place” (Salinger 2).

The main character, Holden, is explaining what he saw when he watched the football game. He explained the way they tackled each other as bashing each other. This is somewhat a hyperbole, because tackling is part of the game in football, but Holden describes it as people violently assaulting each other. This word helps to understand Holden’s views on football, and also gives a sense of imagery.

**ostracized-**exclude (someone) from a society or group

“The whole team ostracized me the whole way back on the train. It was pretty funny, in away” (Salinger 3).

Since Holden has just forgotten all of the fencing team’s equipment on the subway, it makes sense that the team would be mad at him. Not mutual rivalry is shown when the team tries to exclude Holden to send him a message. However, the feeling of resentment is not mutual for Holden, instead he finds it funny. The comical aspect of this passage also helps get a better understanding for Holden’s character, and how he does not care what other people are doing, or what they think of him.

**stooped-**(of a person) having the head and shoulders habitually bent forward.

“I mean he was all stooped over, and he had very terrible posture...” (Salinger 6).

The word stooped in this passage is describing the way “old Mr. Spencer” looks when Holden goes into his room. Imagery is displayed here because the reader can imagine how Mr. Spencer looks and acts towards Holden. Since the reader can now picture Mr. Spencer, and it is also confirmed later that this is what he always looks like, the reader gets a good sense of what kind of character Mr. Spencer is in the story. It is clear that he is old, and very sick, and is described as though he is falling apart.

Dani  
Vocab  
pages 7-14

**Qualms-** uneasy feelings of doubt, worry, or fear

“Do you have any particular qualms about leaving Pencey?... Do you feel absolutely no concern for your future, boy?” (Salinger 14).

This word helps the reader better understand the way Holden is feeling because he is acting like he has no concerns for his future or how he is going to deal with leaving Pencey. Mr. Spencer's tone shows that he really cares about him because of the way he is asking about how he will take care of himself and how he is trying to make Holden understand that this is really serious.

**Grippe-** old fashioned word for the flu

“Hows your grippe, sir’ ‘M’boy if i felt any better I’d have to send for the doctor” (Salinger 8).

Holden as a character can be shown as being caring because he asked how Mr. Spencer was feeling. It also helps the reader better understand because it shows that he is very close with his teachers if he is willing to go to his house and talk to him.

**Innumerable-** too many to be counted

“modern science would still like to know what the secret ingredients were that the Egyptians used when they wrapped up dead people for innumerable centuries” (Salinger 11).

This excerpt from Holden's very short paper helps us to understand that Holden as a character did not care about school at all. His tone in his writing shows his lack of time and effort that he put into writing it.

Jacob Kahan  
Vocab  
pages 15-21

**Grippe**-influenza (Flu)

I'll drop you a line, sir. Take care of your grippe, now. (Salinger 15)

This word helps the reader understand the story and literary function because throughout Holden's meeting with Mr. Spencer, the word grippe is frequently said. Mr. Spencer is sick and Holden tells him to get better. This shows the true morals of Mr. Spencer. He is trying to get Holden on the right path and make him realize the severity of getting kicked out of school. Mr. Spencer still has this meeting even though he is sick.

**Liabe**- responsible by law, likely to do something

If I'm on the way to the store to buy a magazine, even, and somebody asks me where I am going, I'm liable to say I'm going to the opera. (Salinger 16)

This word is used to show the irresponsibility of Holden during this time. He is likely to lie to someone. This word shows character. It shows his true personality.

**Chiffonier**-a tall chest of drawers, often with a mirror on top

He started walking around the room, very slowly and all, the way he always did, picking up your personal stuff of your desk and chiffonier. (Salinger 20)

This word shows what a typical dorm at Pencey would look like. It shows the setting that Holden spent most of his time in at Pencey. The chiffonier is where Holden put a picture of an old girl he used to be with when he was back in New York. Maybe this can show Holden is sentimental and it is hard for him to let go of something.

Caitlin  
Vocab  
pg 21-26

**sadistic** - deriving pleasure from inflicting pain, suffering, or humiliation on others - p 22

I was pretty sadistic with him quite often (Salinger 22).

Sadistic helps the reader understand the narrator's character better because it reveals that he enjoys annoying and humiliating those around him.

**chiffonier** - a tall chest with drawers - p 22

He got it off Stradlater's chiffonier, so he chucked it on the bed (Salinger 22).

Chiffonier helps the reader understand the setting of the story, at a prep school in the 1900s, better because it shows the location and the time period. Today, the word is not used as often in conversation.

**conceited** - excessively proud of oneself; vain - p 24

He's conceited, but he's very generous in some things (Salinger 24).

Conceited reveals to the reader that the narrator is a fairly blunt person who tells people the reality from his point of view.

Amanda

Thought Questions pgs: 1-8

1. What does Holden's view of Mr. Spencer show about Holden's view of pain and living?
2. Why does Holden dislike the idea of attention and fame? How does this influence what he values?
3. How does Holden's dislike of Pencey contradict himself when Holden feels the need to feel a good-bye?

Sneha

Thought Questions 9-17

How does Mr. Spencer's tone change during the conversation he has with Holden?

How would Holden's conversation with Mr. Spencer differ if it did not take place within Mr. Spencer's house?

Why does Holden react to the "essay" Mr. Spencer reads in the way that he does? What does this show about Holden's personality?

Zoe

Thought Questions 18-26

- 1) What has driven Holden to not care about his work or classes in school?
- 2) What can the interactions between Holden and Ackley or Holden and Stradlater express about Holden's character?
- 3) How is the concept of jealousy/being supportive displayed through the way Ackley talks about Stradlater?

Steven S – jealousy? Ackley constantly says that he doesn't like S. H is trying to convince him that he is not a bad guy – Ackley is still not being supportive...

Jacob – Spencer's tone changing – at first – Spencer tries to hide what he is talking about – getting kicked out – at first Spencer was supportive of H and then brought out the test on Egypt – tone changed – angry at Holden – did not care about the school or his life – when you grow up – any qualms?

Seth – ideas about school contradictory – some acknowledgement – just bashing the school so far – finally going – kind of upset that nobody liked him either

Andrew – not in Spencer's house – would have taken the conversation more seriously – in his bathrobe – room reeked of medicine smell – not in his room would have stayed longer – instead of lying about going to gym – could have discussed more about why he did not care about his schoolwork

Lily – when he says goodbye – not really contradicting himself – not that he will miss anything there – but he wants closure – he wants to know where he is going and to be done with the school before he leaves

Roshni – H feels bad when he is told that he doesn't apply himself – he knows what work is good or bad – just does not care – feeling bad when he hears it come back...caring/not caring

Caitlin – acts like he doesn't care about fencing team ostracism – probably a bit regretful – uses sarcasm

Stephan- kind of cared about his brother – bragging about him but also putting him down in the next sentence

Andrew – prostitute – sell out

Hanna – when he heard his essay – I could tell that he felt lousy about failing me – felt bad that he had to make his teacher feel that way...

Will – he didn't care about his grades in school – looking back on it – regret that he has to leave the school...

Haofeng – interactions with Ackley – not with him not that bad of a guy – talks to him then how annoying...

Dani – cares enough about Spencer to go to his house but when talking wanted to leave as soon as possible not really giving good answers

Miyu – he does these things to his fencing team to leave equipment – makes the team and other people that he thinks they are not as important – but he wants a proper goodbye from them

Roshni – Caitlin – bashing or not bashing?

**The Catcher in the Rye**  
**Concepts**

**Dermot Kantor**  
**1-27**

**Concept- Alienation vs Group**

**Passage:** pg.8, "Oh...No game."

In order to make sure he does not go into the cultural norms of society, Holden alienates himself from the people around him in order to feel like an individual. While talking to Mr. Spencer Holden quietly contradict Mr. Spencer's idea that you have to play by the rules of "The Game", "If you get on the side where all the hot-shots are, then it's a game,... But if you get on the *other* side,... then what's the game about ? " (Salinger). This statement makes it evident that Holden believes that he doesn't have to follow the cultural norms of society. This shows that Holden believes that he does not have to follow "The rules" otherwise known as the norms of society. He believes he is on the outside and that there is no hope in trying to conform to what everybody wants him to act. Holden tries to show that he does not fall into the group of what a normal; rather he is individually alienated from the rest of society.

Amanda

3. How does Holden's dislike of Pencey contradict himself when Holden feels the need to feel a good-by?

Answer for 3:

On page 4, Holden says how he wants to feel a goodbye for leaving Pencey, but previously, he emphasizes how much he dislikes Pencey. Although Holden feels glad that he is leaving, I think he wants to know that he was still apart of Pencey regardless. He does not want to feel like he just drifted through his experiences in Pencey, he wants to know that he made a mark at the school. He wants to know that he wasn't a nobody. I also feel as if Holden is very insecure, as he mentions that he feels like after moving to many different schools, not once did he feel as he received a good-by-he doesn't feel like he belongs anywhere. He leaves because he did not meet the expectations of the school, this already makes him feel bad about himself. But he would still like some acknowledgement of his departure. He wants to feel somewhat significant. Although his tone of voice is convincing that he doesn't care at all, it is clear that he is leaving some people that he cares about (Spencer).

Sneha

How does Mr. Spencer's tone change during the conversation he has with Holden?

When Holden first enters his room, Mr. Spencer exchanges pleasantries. He asks about the football game and humors his illness. The conversation then gradually becomes more serious. Mr. Spencer asks whether Holden has informed his parents and then asks him why he has chosen to do so poorly. When Holden ceases to react with a valid answer, Mr. Spencer becomes furious. Once Mr. Spencer addresses the situation, he then, however, switches back to a light hearted final goodbye. Throughout the conversation, Mr. Spencer expresses a concern for Holden. Their conversation is most like one a father and a son would have.

Zoe

3) How is the concept of jealousy/being supportive displayed through the way Ackley talks about Stradlater?

I think that Ackley doesn't like Stradlater due to the fact that Ackley is really jealous of Stradlater and not that Stradlater is mean to him. Ackley bashes Stradlater to Holden by calling him a "sonuvabitch" on the terms that Stradlater pointed out the benefits of personal hygiene. It is unusual that Ackley has such a deep hatred towards Stradlater when Holden, who usual has a negative outlook on most things, has positive comments to make on Stradlater. Holden talks about his generosity and general friendliness towards everyone and the fact that Ackley has no real justifiable reason to hate Stradlater strongly indicates that he is really more jealous than mad.

Reading Due 26-52

Stephan Popescu - Vocab

**Piercing** - Extremely high pitched and loud sound

"He had one of those very piercing whistles that are practically never in tune"(Salinger 27).

This shows that Holden as a character doesn't have much tolerance for anything that goes on around him

**Annex** - An addition to a building

"I oughta go down and say hello to her or something. Where is she? In the Annex?"(Salinger 31).

This shows that Holden relies on others to help him out a lot and this could lead to bigger problems in the future.

**Galoshes** - Rubber boots

"Anyway, we both went to our rooms to get ready and all, and while I was putting on my Galoshes..."(Salinger 36).



This shows what a typical student at Pencey would have to do to get ready to leave his/her rooms.

Pages 47-52

Steven M

Vocab

### **Tiff**

A slight or petty quarrel. (Salinger 47)

“I had a little goddam tiff with Stradlater,” (Salinger 47)

After the conflict between Holden and Stradlater becomes more intense eventually a fight breaks out between the two. Holden starts by trying to “I tried to sock him, with all my might, right smack in the tooth brush, so it would split his goddam throat open.” (Salinger 43). When he misses and hits Stradlater in the side of the head and he retaliates Holden is punched unconscious and when asked what happened Holden said he got into a Tiff which shows how little he cares about the situation.

### **Hysterical**

Uncontrollably emotional (Salinger 51)

I didn't want to be around when they first got it. My mother gets very hysterical.” (Salinger 51)

Holden's mother only wants the best for Holden and clearly cares for him which is proven when she sends him gifts. So when he knows she is going to get a letter about his expulsion he says that she can get Hysterical and does not want to be around her when she gets it. This shows how Holden cares about the wrong things like instead of being concerned with his expulsion he is instead worried about his mother being mad at him for it.

### **Lavish**

To give in great amounts

“I have this grandmother that's quite lavish with her dough.” (Salinger 52).

This adds to the contrast of Holden caring and not caring because he has no care for his school and leaving it but he gets all these gifts that make him sad that he is being rewarded for something he knows he does not deserve anything.

Will Lau  
Thought Questions  
p26-40

Why didn't Holden just tell Stradlater that he really liked Jane instead of giving him small hints?  
What is the tone of this passage?

Roshni – wanted to get on Stradlater's good side – appeared cool to Stradlater. After Holden gets into fight his nose is bleeding – Ackley is asking – got into a tiff – wants to appear tough...kind of like a contradiction – gives us the idea he does not care what they think

Lily – respectfully disagree with Roshni – he was embarrassed about it – Holden just played checkers with Jane...

Caitlin – can't win – can't lose – kings in the back row

Hanna – you can't trust what Holden says – calling a tiff when he got punched – no sense of Stradlater's character except what Holden says about him – he likes who Stradlater is going out with – we just know that Stradlater came in and started to shave – Ackley has said a little bit more...

Steven M – most terrific liar? (16) – should we be trusting him to judge people...

How does Holden's acceptance to writing the composition reflect his relationship to Stradlater?  
What made Holden write the composition?

Jacob – Holden talks about Stradlater thinks so highly of himself – he is a yearbook photo kind of guy – Holden tries to speak poorly of Stradlater but he looks up to him Stradlater has Jane – he is a jock – one of the reasons he wrote the composition – when Ackley was talking about Stradlater – Holden was saying Stradlater is not that bad....

What is the tone of the passage when Holden, Brossard and Ackley go out to see a movie? What does the description show about their character?

Haofeng  
Thought Questions 41-52

-Why do you think Holden cares so much about Stradlater going out with Jane if Holden and Jane were only friends? What could this say about Holden's personality?

Seth – the entire book so far – a lot of Holden's personality – does not tell us what he really feels instead he represses what he feels – he puts on a mask – reason he is a messed up character – doesn't care about school – not normal to not care about being punched in the face or loses the

fencing equipment – blank and emotionless on the outside – emotional on the inside – he opens up to us a little bit and to Ackley sort of – he asks Ackley – how do you join a monastery and become a monk he feels bad becoming a monk he would become better – contradiction – he bashes every kind of learning and institutionalized structure – even makes fun of religion

-How does Holden's tone change from before fighting with Stradlater and after the fight? What concept could this change in tone illustrate?

-What are the similarities between the people that Holden interacts with most frequently? What could this say about his character?

Georgina – tries so hard to distance himself so much from people...

Hanna – when Stradlater does not know where to put commas – Holden gets mad – hates that Stradlater has to blame it on something – Stradlater like Ackley – but they seem really different and Ackley hates Stradlater – sitting at a basketball game – Ackley is jealous – Ackley and Holden talk and Holden describes Ackley who is jealous – Stradlater thinks he is so great – Ackley is self-conscious – but both find ways to make themselves better by putting others down

Sneha – Ackley and Holden look up to Stradlater – he bashes Stradlater like he bashes his brother but he defends him later

Why does Holden write about Allie's baseball mitt?

Steven S – wrote about it because he is thinking about going to NYC recently remembered the times he spent with Jane in NY – descriptive comp – reminded about his brother

Dermot – I agree with what Steven S said – he was supposed to write about a room – he just wrote about a baseball mitt defiant

Amanda – Allie means a whole lot to Holden – Allie's death is a big part of why Holden is mentally damaged at this point and traumatized – Holden knows that it is a big deal to him – Stradlater thinks it is complete garbage – just sees it as a mitt – Holden rips it up – not worth giving the essay to....

Seth

Concept 26-52

One main concept shown is religion, more specifically Holden's opposition to any form of institutionalized education. Holden has a very contradictory view towards institutionalized learning, during the first reading he both bashed Pencey, but also showed some signs of attachment when he was finally leaving. From pages 50 to 52 he asks Ackley several questions about joining a monastery. This also shows Holden's struggle with his morality. Since he feels like he has sinned he feels that he should become more religious. However when Ackley brushes away his ideas of becoming a monk, Holden returns to his pessimistic and cynical ways. Holden has many social insecurities that derive from deeper psychological issues which haven't become so clear at this point, but it raises another concept of Madness, Holden's sanity Vs. his reality.

Concept

Roshni

Contradiction: pages 39-40

Holden exhibits a contradiction when he narrates his story. It is expressing his feelings and versus not expression his feelings.

Holden wrote Stradlater's composition on his brother, Allie, who had died a few years back. Holden admires Allie because he explains how intelligent his brother was. This is unlike how he talked about his other brother D.B. He praised D.B, but simultaneously he insulted him and his accomplishments. He talked about Allie in a positive manner because he thought highly of Allie. He talked about how Allie was, terrifically intelligent. His teachers were always writing letters to my mother, telling her what a pleasure it was having a boy like Allie in their class (Salinger 38).

While he narrates himself writing about his brother, he briefly brings up the topic of him being psychoanalyzed. He was psychoanalyzed because he broke all the windows in his garage, but he does not explain why he did so. He was able to express his admiration for his brother, yet he does the address the exact reason for why he decided to break all the windows in the garage.

Will

How does Holden's acceptance to writing the letter reflect his relationship to Stradlater? What made Holden write the letter?

Holden's accepting to write the letter shows that he is willing to do tasks for Stradlater. In the beginning of the reading, Holden speaks highly of him, especially of his looks. I think that Holden wrote the letter only because Stradlater mentioned that he was doing on a date with Jane. Holden obviously liked Jane a lot, and wanted for her to know him better. During Holden's and Stradlater's conversation, Holden kept telling Stradlater to give him good remarks while talking to Jane. In return for the remarks, Holden would write Stradlater's essay.

Haofeng

What are the similarities between the people that Holden interacts with most frequently? What could this say about his character?

To answer the last question: All the people Holden interact with are people that he doesn't necessarily like. Mal Brossard, Ackley and Stradlander are all people who he criticized/was critical towards in this chapter. This could mean one of two things; either Holden is just a critical person who finds the flaws in everyone, or he is very antisocial and is only 'friends' with the people near him (Stradlander, his roommate and Ackley his neighbor who always visits Holden in his room)

Reading Due 53-80

Elya Segall  
Vocabulary Pages 53-62

1. **Conscientious**- (of a person) wishing to do what is right, especially to do one's work or duty well and thoroughly.

“Pencey? It’s not too bad. It’s not paradise or anything, but it’s as good as most schools. Some of the faculty are pretty **conscientious**” (Salinger 55).

This word helps the reader understand the story and literary function because when Holden was on the train leaving Pencey Prep, at the stop Trenton this lady sat next to him even when the whole cart was empty. She saw a sticker of Pencey Prep on Holden’s bag and asked if her knew her son Ernest Morrow that went there. Holden, trying to be nice, talked about her son in a genuine way, faked his name, and gave false opinion on Pencey, which was all a lie.

2. **Matinee**- A performance in a theater or a showing of a movie that takes place in the daytime.

“Which was really a hot one, because my grandmother hardly ever even goes out of the house, except maybe to go to a goddam **matinee** or something” (Salinger 58).

Mostly the whole conversation that Holden has with Mrs. Morrow is just complete lie, but he tries to distract himself to stop. He specifies in the book that once he starts lying, he can go on for hours, if he feels like it. When she gets off at Newark, she wishes Holden a lot of luck on the operation and invited him to visit Ernie during the summer. Holden thanks her, but makes up a lie saying he is going to South Africa with his grandmother even though she hardly ever goes out of the house, only to see shows.

3. **Incognito**- (of a person) having one's true identity concealed.

“Well the thing is, I don't want to stay at any hotels on the East Side where I might run into some acquaintances of mine. I'm traveling **incognito**” (Salinger 60).

When Holden got to Penn Station, he first went into a phone booth, but was unsure who to call so he ended up not calling anyone. He got into a cab, was so out of it, that he gave the driver his regular address. Holden realizing he wanted to stay at a hotel for a couple of days, where he wouldn't run into any acquaintances, asked the driver to turn around.

Catcher In the Rye Vocabulary for pages 63-72 Steven Sfikas

**Tigress** pg 64

“Boy, she was a real tigress over the phone” (Salinger 64).

Tigress: A woman resembling a tiger, as in fierceness or courage

I think that Holden uses this word to describe the woman because it shows how he thinks about women. He refers to her as a tiger saying she sounds fierce because he wants to meet her. Later in the passage he thinks a girl looks cute so this may show that he wants a girlfriend now that he is back in New York and he cannot talk to any people he knows.

**Suave** pg 70

“ I didn’t ask them crudely or anything. Very suave in fact” (Salinger 70)

Suave: Smoothly agreeable or polite; agreeably or blandly urbane.

I think that Holden refers to himself as suave because he wants to show that he is someone nice or polite because if he is explaining this story to someone he wants them to think he is a nice person

.

**Putrid** pg 69

“The band was putrid” (Salinger 69)

Putrid: Of very low quality; rotten

I think that Holden says that the band is putrid because he may not be very happy. Since he is back in New York he is unable to contact anyone in his family including his sister who he described earlier and any of his friends. This could cause Holden to be upset therefore calling the band putrid.



## Andrew Thought Questions 53-62

Andrew Shao

- 1) How does Holden's interactions with Mrs. Morrow compare and contrast with what we know about his other, earlier interactions?
- 2) How is Holden stating he didn't care what people thought of him and his actions an paradox? What does this reveal about his character?
- 3) How is Holden pointing the bad things out in everything show about his character? How is it hypocritical or ironic? What would Holden comment on himself?

## Georgina Stanley Thought Questions page 63-72:

Throughout the passage, the narrator has a fixation with women. What does this show about his character?

What is the tone on page 67 when the narrator is describing his family. Is he envious of them? Why?

Why does the narrator keep going on about his younger sister is? What does this show about his character?

Miyu Tachibana

Monday Catcher Homework

Book 3: page 73-80

Thought Questions

1. What does Holden interactions with the girls reveal about his character and how he values relationships with others?
2. Holden is always joking, but then feels sorry. What does this show about who he is?
3. Why does Holden tell the story about Jane and him? What does it have to do with Stradlater?

Roshni – tone on 67 – similar to how he describes Allie – how they are both so smart – both look nice – different from how he describes DB – sees positive and negative in DB – not envious of Allie and Phoebe – only positive but DB actual evidence –

Lily – Nostalgia – concept – when he is describing his little sister and Allie – misses them – wants it to be the way it was when he was a little kid – expelled –

Hanna – his little brother still alive – so smart – smartest in the family – missing – who his little brother was...

Caitlin – speaks highly of his family members – not a lot of confidence in himself – views himself as not the smartest – envious of everyone else

Sneha – calls himself dumb – p. 54 – Mrs Morrow – I am quite sexy...

Dermot – isolating himself from everyone around him - not just at school or in a social setting but also in his family

Hanna – right after nostalgic part – essay – the baseball mitt – never mentioned Allie until then – won't tell us the whole autobiography but he did mention it when he wrote a descriptive story – starts to remember what it used to be like...

Georgina – a kid part of the family – describing siblings in depth – feels a part of the family...

Roller-Skate-Skinny

Caitlin – really carefree – no plans – do whatever comes your way – across the street to the park –

Georgina – relates to her innocence... - Holden is not innocent

Seth – when you are on roller skates – not so worried about stopping – not weighed down by pressure – not physical form necessarily – no pressure from school – letting life glide by you...

Will – during their discussion Holden is lying to her – contradiction – terrible that he is lying to people yet he still is

Sneha – an interaction with a girl – a female – a mom – how does he treat women? Lies to them – trying to impress them – does whatever he can to make Ms. Morrow happy...

Emily – inappropriate

Andrew – same age as son

Jacob – paradox – when someone says he doesn't care what people think of him – that can be a good trait to have – to not be mad at people – someone is saying bad things about him – someone said he was suave – Stradlater I was suave – he wouldn't not think about it...

Miyu – ever since Stradlater mentioned Jane – he knew her first and got closer to her first...

Lily Spitalny

Concept (pages 67-68): Nostalgia

When Holden is talking about his little sister Pheobe, he keeps saying how great of a person she is. He keeps bringing up different memories of her and of his childhood with his siblings. This shows how he misses his childhood and his little sister. Also, when he wants to call her and talk to her it shows how much he misses her company and wants to just go home and be with his siblings, but he is scared because he thinks things will be different when he gets home since he is not a little kid anymore and he got expelled from school.

Andrew

3) How is Holden pointing the bad things out in everything show about his character? How is it hypocritical or ironic? What would Holden comment on himself?

Answering 3) Holden pointing out the bad things in everything shows that he is insecure about himself, which is ironic because he needs to find ways to reassure himself that it's not just himself deteriorating. If Holden were commenting on himself, he would probably say lots of negative things about himself as well as point out all the flaws.

Georgina

Throughout the passage, the narrator has a fixation with women. What does this show about his character?

This action shows how naive and immature he is. He leaves his school unannounced in the middle of the night, and travels into New York City with all his luggage and nowhere to stay. Some people might think he was homeless. The first thing he thinks to do is call a woman he met months ago indirectly through a college student. Later on, he goes to a bar, even though he is underage, and tries to pick up a woman. In my opinion, the woman are all just as stupid as he is. These are both examples of his immaturity.

What is the tone on page 67 when the narrator is describing his family. Is he envious of them? Why?

The author uses a desperate remembrance tone to tell this passage. His family is probably pretty close to considering him an outcast, so he probably has not been home for some time. He tells this passage as though he really wants to go home to visit his siblings as he is remembering the times he spent with them. He describes the way his younger sister looks in great detail as if he really misses her.

Why does the narrator keep going on about his younger sister is? What does this show about his character?

The fact that the narrator actually cares about something shows a lot. All through out the book, the narrator's feelings are contradictory towards his actions. He acts like he does not care about a single thing. The way he feels toward his little sister is almost as if he is proud of her intelligence which proves he actually does care. He does not say one negative thing about her. He just praises her and admires her, almost as if he envies how smart she is, and how dumb he is.

Miyu

2. Holden is always joking, but then feels sorry. What does this show about who he is?

**What does Holden always joking, but then feeling bad show about whom he is?**

This action shows that he lives in the present and doesn't think about the future. He acts before he thinks about how it'll make the others feel. When he joked about seeing Gary Cooper, he thought it would be funny, but once Marty got excited, he felt bad. I think that Holden feels bad because he knows that it meant a lot to Marty that a famous person was in the room. It is the same when he is on the train with Ernest's mom and tells her his name is Rudolf. He knows that Ernest means a lot to his mom, but instead of telling the truth, he lies to make his life more interesting. He wants to have fun, but it usually ends up with him regretting what he said.

Reading Due 81-104

Amanda

Vocab Words Pgs: 81-88

1. **Tattersall:** *"On my right there was this very Joe Yale-looking guy, in a gray flannel suit and one of those filthy-looking Tattersall vests."*(Salinger 84)

Def: a pattern of squares formed by colored crossbars on a solid-color, usually light background.

Exp: The tattersall pattern is known to be printed on expensive clothing but Holden refers to the vests to be filthy-looking. Holden refers to the term "filthy rich" which implies how in order to have expensive clothing, you have to pay a lot of money for it thus the term filthy rich. This also shows how Holden views people who are supplied with money, even though he too, comes from a wealthy family.

2. **Humble:** *"Anyway when he was finished, and everybody was clapping their heads off, old Ernie turned around on his stool and gave this very phony, humble bow."*(Salinger 84)

Def: not proud or arrogant; modest.

Exp: When Holden addresses Ernie's performance, Holden says how advance Ernie plays the piano but also insults Ernie by calling him a show-off. I think that Holden is jealous of Ernie, very much in the same way Holden is jealous of D.B.

3. **Hoodlummy(Hoodlum):** *"Now and then you just saw a man and a girl crossing a street , with their arms around eachother's waists and all, or a bunch of hoodlummy-looking guys and their dates, all of them laughing like hyenas at something you could bet wasn't funny."* (Salinger 81)

Def: a young street ruffian, especially one belonging to a gang, a petty criminal.

Exp: While a hoodlum is defined as a crinimal, Holden describes them in the same sentence as a couple. Holden describes that the streets are usually full of people. He describes empty streets as incredibly depressing and lonesome. I think Holden fears being lonley is the worst feeling ever, even though he is an isolated character.

Vocab

97-104 - Zoe

**Sore:** Upset or angry

"He didn't get sore about it-he never got sore about anything..." (Salinger 99).

The word sore is used by Holden as he is describing Allie's personality. It helps the reader understand Allie as a person and shows the impact Allie had upon Holden. Holden usually points out the negativity in situations, however by pointing out a positive aspect of Allie, the reader is able to understand their relationship.

**Crumby:** Dirty, unpleasant or of poor quality

"He was pretty sharp, in his crumby way" (Salinger 102).

Holden points out negativity in most situations, so when he makes a flattering observation, in order to counter it, and stay true to his character, he decides to add a negative insult into the statement.

**Scraggy:** Ragged, thin or untidy in form or appearance

"You're a stupid chiseling moron, and in about two years you'll be one of those scraggy guys..." (Salinger 103).

Because Holden is not confident enough to stand up to people by using physical force against them, he instead resorts to using forms of verbal insults to stand up for himself. Holden believes that saying something witty or cunning will be better than actually ending a fight because his overall character does not necessarily take things seriously.

Hanna

Thought questions 81-88

1. Is Holden jealous of Ernie? If so, how is the way he talks about Ernie similar or different to the way he talks about D.B. or Stradlater?
2. On page 85 it says "My father wants me to go to Yale, or maybe Princeton, but I swear I wouldn't go to one of those Ivy-League colleges, if I was dying..." (Salinger 85). Is Holden smarter than he says he is? Is this another example of not being able to trust Holden as a narrator?
3. Why does Holden interact differently with Lilian than the rest of the girls we have seen him interact with? What does this reveal about his character?

Thought questions – Dani 89-96

1. How is when Holden describes himself as "yellow" illustrate the concept of him caring vs. not caring?
2. What does Holden saying "I almost wish I was dead" and still not going home to his parents show about their relationship?
3. If Holden is being shown as depressed and not caring about anything, why does he try to comb his hair, see if his breath smells, and change his shirt all just for the prostitute coming to his room?

Jacob Kahan 97-104

Thought Questions

1. What does Holden not sleeping with the prostitute show about his character? Does it prove he truly has morals?
2. Do you think Holden's depression because of Allie caused him to be such a poor student? Do you think 'talking' to him is some sort of coping mechanism?
3. Does Holden's suicidal thoughts compare to the thoughts of Gilgamesh when he was devastated after Enkidu's death?

Hanna

Why does Holden interact differently with Lilian than the rest of the girls we have seen him interact with? What does this reveal about his character?

Each time Holden has interacted with a girl so far, he has tried to flirt with her. Although this time he seems unexcited to talk to Lilian. It could be because he realized her boyfriend was with her, but it also could be that he doesn't want to flirt with her because D.B. has already been with her. I think that Holden does not want to touch what has already been in D.B.'s life. He talks about how she probably only wanted to talk to him because she wanted Holden to tell D.B. that he saw her. Also, he says how it drives him crazy when people give a big reaction to how D.B. is in Hollywood, and he almost never wants to talk about why he is there. This shows how even though he might be jealous of D.B., he does not necessarily want to take after him. Instead he would rather make his own path.

Jacob

Do you think Holden's depression because of Allie caused him to be such a poor student? Do you think 'talking' to him is some sort of coping mechanism?

I think Allie's death had a huge impact on Holden's life. It seems that ever since his death, Holden has been in and out of school and had suicidal thoughts as shown in chapter 14. I think Holden kind of uses Allie's death as a reason, as a way to justify his poor grades and his bad behavior. Although he does not show, I feel this way since he brings up Allie all the time. I think that pretending to talk to Allie is a coping mechanism because he feels nostalgic about the times when Allie was alive. Especially the moment with Bobby Fallon. I think Holden is trying to do anything he can to preserve all memories of his brother.

Dani

How is when Holden describes himself as "yellow" illustrate the concept of him caring vs. not caring?

Holden describing himself as yellow with the meaning of being a coward shows that he didn't care about any of his stuff. He says that if somebody were to take his gloves he wouldn't have hit them or cared that much. It is ironic that he describes himself as being scared to do anything risky such as stand up for himself or fight someone because he takes the risk of not trying hard in school and failing all of his classes. If he is failing school and doesn't seem to care that he is being kicked out, it seems almost hypocritical of him to say that he is mellow and doesn't like doing things that could get him hurt or in trouble.

Melissa

What can you tell about Holden's character when he is listening and making fun of other people's conversations when he is at Ernie's nightclub?

This shows that Holden is very nosy and that he has nothing better to do than listen to other people's conversations. This also shows that he is very quick to judge people because he just assumes that all the guys in the nightclub are jerks which can be a reason why he does not have a lot of friends. This also shows that he is very lonely and depressed because he came to the club alone while everyone around him is with someone so maybe he is listening to their conversations because he wants to be them.



Concepts (p 92 - 104)

Caitlin

Passage - p 92

Concept: Innocence vs. Experience

Earlier, he mentions how he can drink a lot and go all night without getting drunk. He brings up a story about a time at the Whooton School when him and another boy bought a pint of Scotch and drank the entire thing in the chapel - this is an immature thing to do, and is an example of the experience side of the concept. The innocence side is that the entire passage he speaks about being a virgin, and how he is scared that he will do something that the girl would not like if he were to lose his virginity. This shows innocence along with revealing to the reader that he is a caring person along with having the ability to make mature decisions as well. During this flashback, he is actually waiting for a prostitute to come up to his room, which is an example of innocence and immaturity. This shows that innocence in his case can be both a mature innocence and an unaware innocence.

Concepts – Sneha

Concept: Loneliness vs. Isolation (pg. 81-82)

Holden sends a contradictory message by both describing loneliness as a feeling he does not want to have and choosing to isolate himself. The melancholy loneliness is expressed in first lines of chapter twelve. Here, he describes the sight of laughter as 'depressing' because the happiness of others emphasized the idea of Holden himself missing this. This feeling of loneliness, however, is a choice he himself has made. In attempt to feel sociable, Holden strikes a conversation with the cab driver, but quickly gets frustrated. Holden tends to interact this way with most people, suggesting he does not enjoy talking to most. The concept "alienation vs. group" is presented in previous passages and further explains why Holden is lonely. Holden's loneliness is a result of his preference to avoid the social etiquette and 'stay on the outside'.

Jacob – morals for not sleeping with prostitute? He may be ill-timed with his decisions – Maurice asked him and H didn't think about it – just agreed to do it – reminiscing about Allie a lot – I think that right now – he does have morals – said yes to Maurice – thought it would make him happy...short time solution – shows he is depressed and trying a way to find to be happy

Steven O – imagining his own scenario from the movies even though he said he hated the movies

Roshni – fantasy of dealing with Maurice – idealizes his situation like the movies ruining him – how sim and dif to how he idealizes Allie

Caitlin – right after he asked for prostitute – reflects on all the time he almost but he always stopped – he didn't want them to regret it later – already in a bad spot – not in best mental state – doesn't want to do anything else he would regret

Georgina – he is being melodramatic – looking for attention – wants to kill herself – really strong and not right to say – looking for attention – left boarding school

Sneha – I wonder to some extent – loneliness vs isolation – he sees people and laughing depressed to hear people laughing – normally we are happy for those who laugh – but he seems jealous of those laughing – choosing to be isolated? Like Dermot's concept – isolation for group – he almost feels he shouldn't feel the cultural norm – needs to commit suicide...more like an excuse for the rubbernecking – something he is saying rather than actually feeling that way – might feel as if he is scared to do it...

Seth – he doesn't really want to – sharing suicidal thoughts – seeking attention – don't want random people looking at his body – wants sympathy from us

Stephan – H to Gilgamesh – Holden drove everyone away from him – he likes to be around people but drives them away – Gilgamesh did not have total control over who he was with or not with – affected his thoughts

Roshni – when Enkidu died Gilgamesh became motivated – after Allie died Holden got expelled from many schools – calls himself a pretty poor student

Dermot – I agree with Stephan but these characters are also similar – both considering suicide nobody there for him – Gilgamesh is considering suicide because Enkidu was the only one he could relate to

Jacob – Holden feels ostracized – do you think that H feels ostracized pushed away everyone – a week left – decided not to go to his parents?

Will – Allie is a kind of coping mechanism – when he was with Stradlater – doesn't want Jane to go out with Stradlater – Allie is a kind of role model – looks up to him

Shao – I think that ironic – he says he doesn't care what anyone thinks about him – self-conscious about his breath and hair – he actually does care – gets lonely – says he doesn't care about being lonely but his actions show that he does

Lily – I agree with Shao – he actually cares a lot more than he is letting on – telling this story to a therapist or something – if he didn't care

Steven S – interacts differently with Lilian – knew DB – doesn't like DB as much as Allie or Phoebe – judging the girls at the bar – but is judging Lilian even more

Haofeng – I don't think that H is smarter than he says he is – he swore he would never go to those IVY league colleges as if to put him above them – we can't trust everything that he says – 2 or 3 different schools – maybe he is smart in another way – thoughtful – doesn't help him in school a lot but you can tell he is observant

Steven Orlofsky acting pages 81-104

sourced from page 91

[Holden enters elevator, Maurice gets right into his face, launches into his offer]

Maurice: "Innarested in a good time, fella? Or is it too late for you?"

Holden: "What do you mean? laser tag?" [startled]

M: [puts his arm around Holden, Holden looks uncomfortable] "Innarested in a little tail t'night?"

H: "Me?" [Maurice Nods] I've never really done this kind of thing before.

M: [impatiently] "How old are you, chief?"

H: "Why? Sevente- uh, [gears turning] Twenty-two."

M: "Uh huh. Well, how 'bout it? Ya innarested? Five dollars a pahp. [does obscene hand gesture] Fifteen dollas for da whole shmooley." [He looks at his watch.] ehhehh Till noon. fifteen bucks till noon."

H: "Okay?"

M: "Okay what? A pahp, or the whole shmooley? I gotta know."

H: "[hesitates] Just a paaaaaaaaahhhhhp?." [Maurice thumbs up]

M: "Okay, what room ya in?"

[Holden looks at the red thing with his number on it]

H: "Twelve twenty-two,"

M: "Okay doke. I'll send a goil up in about three shakes of a lamb's ass." [He opens the doors and Holden gets out.]

H: [Leaves, then peeks back.] "Hey, is she good-looking? I don't want any old bag."

M: "No old bag. Don't worry about it .... chief."

H: [assured] "Well, people are very strange these days. Who do I pay?"

M: "Her. [Holden doesn't move.] What are you waiting for, let's get a move on chief."

[He shuts the doors]

**Why you chose that scene as important**

This scene is important because it shows a major departure from what Holden was used to as a high school student, or captain of the fencing team, and how Holden reacts to these types of situations and offers.

**What it shows about characters**

This scene shows Holden in an unfamiliar adult situation, staying at a seedy hotel alone, and ordering a prostitute. Depending on your interpretation, it can show Holden as a scared high school student, or a teenager eager to be considered an adult. Maybe Holden agreed to Maurice's offer because he felt intimidated by Maurice, which would make sense as Holden is still in high school, or he felt obligated to accept the offer as it was something he thought "adults" did, and is eager to prove himself.

**Why you chose to act it out the way you did**

I wanted to emphasize how shady and suspicious Maurice is, while also keeping a lighthearted, comic tone, so I recruited Steven Magid to be in it with me.

Reading Due 105-122

Will Lau - Vocab

**bourgeois**-middle class

“He borrowed it off me all the time, but it was bourgeois” (Salinger 108).

This word is used when Slagle is describing Holden’s belongings, especially his fountain pen. While in Elkton Hills, Holden roomed with Slagle and noticed that Slagle had inexpensive suitcases. Slagle would put his suitcases under his bed instead of keeping them on the rack. Holden’s expensive suitcases would always be on the rack, able to be seen by everyone. However, Holden noticed that Slagle had an inferiority complex and moved his suitcases under the bed while Slagle put his up on the rack. Although Holden tried to be sympathetic for Slagle, he was taken advantage of in the process.

**swanky**-luxurious and expensive

“She’d hand in her basket and then go someplace swanky for lunch” (Salinger 114).

When Holden describes Sally Hayes’ mother, he regards her in a disrespectful manner. He then compares her to the nuns, and talks about them in a more positive manner. It is quite ironic here that Holden regards the nuns positively because they never went anywhere swanky for lunch, but Holden himself admitted he was a spendthrift and didn’t have to worry too much about money.

**mobbed**-crowded

“Broadway was mobbed and messy” (Salinger 115).

Holden uses this word to describe Broadway, but it also describes what he is feeling inside as well. His family is nearby, but he doesn’t want to see him. He tries ringing Jane up, but her mother picks up. He is running low on cash and has to endure three more days. Holden feels mobbed by all the events he has to experience from Maurice to finding Phoebe.

Seth

Thought Questions 113-122

How has Allie's death affected both Holden and his family's personal well beings?

How does Holden's hatred of the movies represent his feelings towards mainstream society as a whole?

What is Holden's relationship with his father like? How can his relationship with his father compare to Telemachus' relationship with Odysseus?

Allie's death was a very traumatic event for both Holden and his father. Many of Holden's social insecurities and psychological issues may be attributed to this event. Both him and his father have very nostalgic feelings towards Allie and Holden paints a very idealistic picture of Allie when he describes him.

Haofeng

Page 122

Instinct v.s. Reason

Holden has had 'Instinct v.s. Reason' moments before, when he decides to hire the prostitute and then backed out when the prostitute got there. In this case, Holden can't find Phoebe in the park but finds out that might have been at the Natural History Museum. Even though it is a Sunday and the museum is closed, Holden's gut feeling makes him walk through the whole park to the museum, but when he gets there he "wouldn't have gone inside for a million bucks" (Salinger 122). Holden is a character who makes quick and mostly irrational decisions: asking Sally out to the movies and then not wanting to go, walking through a whole park to the museum and then get a cab to leave, etc... He makes these decisions but then soon regrets them or complains about them.

Jacob – Holden is being nice but still separating himself from adults by making observations about kids

Stephan – remembering when he helped out Allie and trying to recreate it

Seth – Holden is upset by this – younger – he might still be a kid – people would ditch him by saying he has to meet friends...reminded of how as a kid always left out

Hanna – it kills him – not actually hurts him – Phoebe killed Allie – uses that word he got a kick out of them – funny to him – maybe didn't mean he was hurt

Roshni – skate key – symbolizes his childhood missing his childhood – physical representation – skates staying on...

Amanda – when Holden goes to the park, searching for Phoebe – how she loved to go roller skating in the park – his character clings to his childhood – childhood memories of people – wants to see his memory of Phoebe – fears change – doesn't want to go back and see his family changed and does not want to see his family without Allie

Haofeng – one of many examples where Holden – got the record wanted to find her – might be at museum – she wasn't there on Sundays – wouldn't have gone in for a million bucks – leaving in a taxi – chickens out with the prostitute – leaving Pencey and the other two schools – always try to do adult things – doing something childish

Lily – best thing though – everything stayed where it was nobody'd move – liked that nothing changed – reliable – it will be there – when he was little and Allie was alive things were more reliable and he could count on more people – when his brother died everything changed – he misses when everything could just be the same

Roshni – different in a way – not sure I feel like it – seem to us – too lazy to explain it to make it seem – wants to lie to himself – does not want to admit that he has grown up

Dermot – stick in glass cases – epiphany – can't hold on to the nostalgia of the past – how great the museum is – decides not to go to the museum – no worth to it – won't be happy as a kid – trying to seek for – happiness from the past...

Steven M – everything started to change for Holden when Allie died and that's why he doesn't like change – if Allie were still in that glass case – tries to live in the past...

Seth – get into a cab – damn date with Sally – shows how Holden longing for his innocence – entire passage he is nostalgic for his childhood – date with a girl – does not care about it anymore – relates back to what Dermot said – if Holden could he would put himself in a glass case...he already kind of has Allie behind a glass case – one specific memory

Georgina – hunting hat more than an article of clothing – walked on – wouldn't meet anyone – knows that nobody will see him – hat on when he was leaving school

Hanna – if Allie in a glass case – by the time he gets to the museum – dif each time – afraid of how much he changed – if Allie is in a case – changed so much

Roshni – put Allie in a case – Allie were not alive could not grow up – gods v humans – because of time – preserved but still dead – Holden wouldn't put Allie and his childhood in the glass case because Allie would be dead

Steven S – misses his childhood...when he held the skate key – when he said – nobody different – just you – different than all other times he was there



Jacob – this passage – conflict of change – fears change – if he could go back in time and relive all the time with Allie – freeze those moments in a case – only thinks about Allie as a person to praise...

Acting  
Stephan, Steven, Steven M

### Catcher Script

Holden: [to himself] Boy these are some good eggs....*ohhhhhhhhh yeahhhhhhh*  
[Nuns sit down next to him]

Holden: [to himself] Oh lord those suitcases are disgusting and phony. Mine are so much better. I'm the best! My suitcases are so heavy because they're full of cigarettes and fencing gear. I'M A SEXY GUY.

H: Hey, are you guys collecting money for Charity?

Nun 1: Oh heavens no, I just couldn't fit the basket in my tiny satchel. [gestures at basket]

H: I thought if you were taking up a collection, I could make a small contribution. You could keep the money for later.

Nun 2: Oh, how very **[jesus]** kind of you, young man.

Nun 1: Are you sure you can **[jesus]** afford that?

H: [sounding arrogant] Uhhh, pshya, I *think* I can afford it. So where are you headed?

N2 Oh well now, young man, we are schools teachers from Chicago, we're starting a new teaching job uptown.

Holden + N2: [confused] what?

N1: You'll get it **[jesus]** when you're older.

H: [Reclining] What a story nuns! [mutters] *I hate school.*

Nuns: [In unison] What?

H: Nothing! hot diggity dog, I'm charming the pants off these old geezers.

**Importance**

We chose this scene because it shows Holden's regret for what he has done to get kicked out of schools and also how self-conscious and paranoid he is when he doesn't want them to find out he is not very religious.

**Characters**

This shows that Holden is very quick to do and doesn't think about everything he says or does. For example, Holden quickly gives ten dollars away to the nuns, which he later regrets his decision. Also, Holden likes to strike up conversation but he doesn't seem very good at carrying the conversations very well. He gets too caught up in himself.

**Act**

We chose to act this out the way we did because we wanted to show how Holden's character would sound in real life and show how life was like for him.

Reading Due:  
123-157

Lily

Vocab 134-143

**Madman-** a man who is mentally ill.

“I swear to God I’m a **madman**” (Salinger 134).

Holden calls himself a madman for asking Sally to go away with him, which I do not think makes him a madman. Also he is calling himself mentally ill and crazy just for asking a girl out- shows how he views himself in a negative way.

**Putrid-** very ugly, bad, or unpleasant

“It was so putrid I couldn’t take my eyes off it” (Salinger 138).

He says the movie is extremely unpleasant, but he could not take his eyes off of it which is ironic because usually if someone did not like a movie they would leave. This shows a balance of contradictions and also shows how Holden is very pessimistic.

**Swanky-** stylishly luxurious and expensive

“ the Wicker bar is in this sort of swanky hotel” (Salinger 141).

Shows that Holden was wealthy because the hotel is expensive and he says he used to go there a lot. Also, he says he used to go there a lot which tells us about his past and how he went to bars even before Pencey when he was really young.

Andrew

**raspy** - hoarse or harsh-sounding.

"Harris Macklin... he was one of the biggest bores I ever met. He had one of these very raspy voices, and he never stopped talking" (Salinger 123).

This gives a impression of Harris being someone you wouldn't want to talk to, and the fact that Holden uses him as an example to describe the different types of guys that girls will eventually marry probably shows that he doesn't like them that much.

**Beret** - a round flattish cap of felt or cloth.

"old Sally... had on this black coat and sort of a black beret" (Salinger 124).

This gives an idea of what people around Holden were ordinarily wearing as Holden knew what the beret was. It also reveals a bit about Holden's character because instead of a ordinary beret,

he bought a red hunting hat which the kids at Pencey thought was weird, which shows that he doesn't like being part of the "norm".

**Marvelous** - extremely good or pleasing; splendid.

"Holden! ...It's marvelous to see you!' ...'Absolutely marvelous' ...'The Lunts! Oh, marvelous!'" (Salinger 125).

This shows a little about Sally's character as she's very relaxed about everything, opposite to Holden, and foreshadows that anything Sally would consider not "marvelous" would be very upsetting and strange to her.

Miyu

The Catcher and the Rye vocab

Book 3: pg. 144-157

**Phony:** person that's not genuine

"... and saying sophisticated stuff to each other and being charming and phony" (Salinger 151).

Holden claims others as a phony, but he himself is a phony. For example, when he and Sally were at the Lunts, Sally and her friend, George, were talking about the show and Holden says, "it was the phoniest conversation you ever heard in your life" (Salinger 127). This thought shows that he calls people out when they're being phony, but when he is, it's okay. Holden thought that George was phony, but when Holden and Ernest's mother were talking in the train and he was lying about Ernest, it was acceptable because he was saying what the mother wanted to hear. It is sort of hypocritical because George might have been telling the truth about the show, but all Holden cared about was if he agreed and if he didn't, then George was a phony.

**Concealing:** keep from sight or as a secret; hide

"I was concealing the fact that I was a wounded sonuvabitch" (Salinger 150).

When Holden was in the bar, he pretended like he was shot in the gut and he was trying to hide it from others. This is figurative because the wound can symbolize what he is missing and hurting and he is trying to hide it from others. Holden misses Allie and feels depressed and lonesome, but he tries to hide his emotions from others by acting happy.

**Psychoanalyze:** therapy that aims to treat mental disorders by communicating with the mind

“You mean to go to a psychoanalyst and all?” (Salinger 148).

When Holden and Luce were talking, Holden brings up the thought about going to the psychoanalyst and is curious about what Luce’s father would do if he went. A psychoanalyst usually interacts with the mind and the fears or dreams that Holden might be having. By Luce telling Holden he needed to go to one, shows that others are concerned. This also shows that Holden has been acting like a “madman” for a long time.

Elya Thought Questions  
Page 123-133

Why does Holden seem depressed when he is sitting in the lobby of the Biltmore? How do Holden's feelings for women compare to his feelings for men?

2How does Sally respond when Holden says he loves her in the cab on the way to the show even though it was a lie?

Why does Holden admit he’s a ‘madman’ at the end of the chapter? What does this show about Holden’s character?

Steven

Catcher in the Rye thought questions

Pages 134-143

What does Holden laughing about what he said show about his character?  
Holden remembers stories about Allie when he is at Radio City and when he gets to the Wicker Bar. What does this show about his feelings towards his brother?  
What could the drummer from Radio City represent for Holden?

Emily thought questions 144-157

What is the tone of the conversation between Holden and the piano player.  
What is the tone of the passage where Holden talks about Allie’s funeral.  
What does Holden sneaking home to see Phoebe show about his character.

Georgina Concepts

Passage from page 148

Concept- Holden's view on the "adult world"

All throughout the book, Holden prides himself on thinking that he is all grown up and mature. In this passage, Holden is meeting up with a guy from one of his old boarding schools that used to tell him about sex. Now, when Holden starts trying to bring up the old conversations, Luce finds Holden quite immature, and says he needs to talk with a psychoanalyst, a therapist that aims to treat mental disorders. This shows that Holden's views on issues having to do with the adult world are quite childish and inaccurate.

Emily

When Holden breaks Phoebe's record he almost cries what does this show about Holden's character.

Holden has a good relationship with his younger siblings. Holden does not see his sister a lot so the record is like a piece of her that helps holden remember her. This shows that Holden really cares about his younger siblings and sees them in a different way from other people.

Steven S

What could the drummer from Radio City represent for Holden?

I think that the drummer represents how Holden feels about his brother and how they used to have something in common that connected them and made them brothers. I also think the reason Holden goes back to Radio City is to see the drummer and to remember Allie because he misses him so much

Reading Due 157-180

Sneha – vocab 157-180

**Foyer:** an entrance hall or other open area in a building

*“Our house has a funny smell that doesn’t smell like anyplace else” (Salinger 158).*

When Holden walks into his family’s apartment, he enters the foyer. Here, he is truly confronted by the idea of home. He recognizes the place immediately, proving how comfortable he is with this setting. This immediate recognition is an example of the concept nostalgia.

**Plastered:** informal term for very drunk

*“I was plastered,” I said (Salinger 163).*

Holden breaks Phoebe’s record earlier in the story. When he shows Phoebe the broken pieces and tells her he was plastered, we can see the relationship him and Phoebe have with each other. Although he continuously remarks that she is still a kid, Holden talks to Phoebe like she is an adult. Holden also tells the truth, as opposed to lying (the way he interacts with most people).

**Dough:** slang for money

*“You got any dough Phoebe? I’m broke...I didn’t want to take her Christmas dough” (Salinger 178).*

Holden asks Phoebe for money that he can spend. When Phoebe says yes and offers it, Holden begins to cry because he realizes how unethical it would be to borrow his little sister’s Christmas money. Instead of pretending to care, as he did with Mr. Spencer, Holden confronts the issue of failing school for the first time. This is also one of the few scenes in the book where the reader feels pity for Holden.

Dermot

Thought Questions

1. Why does Holden choose to tell Phoebe that he likes Allie at that moment?
2. Why does Holden describe the rye field when responding to the fact that Allie is dead?



3. Does Holden think that Phoebe has “fell of the cliff in the rye field”?

Caitlin

Thought Questions p 169-180

1. How does Phoebe know right away that Holden does not like anything after he complains about Pencey? What does this reveal about her character?
2. Does Phoebe think that Holden is over focused on Allie? How does she show this?
3. How is the real Phoebe different from the imaginary or young Phoebe that Holden has kept in his mind? How does this relate to the idea of Holden holding onto the good of Allie and not the bad?

Dani

page 165

self-awareness vs. judgement of others

It is ironic how Holden doesn't seem to think about any of his actions that are seen as ridiculous to the reader. Holden doesn't seem to understand how crazy everything he does seems and yet he is still judging what everyone else does throughout the book. In this passage he describes Phoebe as a madman for just not wanting to talk to him because he got kicked out of school again. While he is saying how crazy she is, he is impulsive and suggests the idea of running away to Colorado to live on a ranch without even thinking of the consequences.

Jacob

Concepts

170-175

Concept-Nostalgia

Holden constantly relates everything to his past (when Allie was still alive). This is a very common theme throughout the book because I feel Holden is depressed in some way because his life is somewhat falling apart. Holden talks of James, a boy he knew that committed suicide because of being bullied. When Holden tries to think of something he likes he has trouble because he has not had a substantially good experience since before Allie died. He tries to think

of one but he has trouble. Holden comes to the conclusion that he would enjoy being a 'catcher in the rye'.

Zoe

Concept: Despite the fact that Holden tries to portray himself as an adult, he still has uncontrollable child-like emotions

"Then, all of the sudden, I started to cry. I couldn't help it" (Salinger 179).

Throughout the book, Holden tries to distance himself from the behaviors of other kids by showing how his view on things contrasts with people of the same age as him. However, this display of uncontrolled emotions is able to prove to the reader that Holden is indeed child like despite his desire to not be. Many adults are expected to hold a facade of strength and composure, however, when Holden breaks down crying in front of Pheobe, a person he loves dearly and longs to be looked up to by, we can clearly see that Holden, is in fact, not an adult.

Caitlin

How is the real Phoebe different from the imaginary or young Phoebe that Holden has kept in his mind? How does this relate to the idea of Holden holding onto the good of Allie and not the bad?

The real Phoebe is different from the imaginary Phoebe that Holden talks about because the real Phoebe is completely aware and knows Holden like the back of her hand. The imaginary Phoebe that Holden creates is innocent, happy go-lucky, and not super aware of her surroundings. She immediately can tell that Holden was kicked out of school and is quick to tell him her opinion.

This typically indicates maturity - she is almost more mature than Holden in that sense. He cannot be honest with his younger sister - this shows that he is insecure and feels inferior to Phoebe despite the fact that he perceives her as someone who will always be there as the younger person. This is similar to Allie because Holden always thinks that Allie would be the same as he remembered him if he were with them today, but he probably wouldn't be. The reader can tell because Phoebe is different from when Holden last remembered her - that was only a few months. If Allie were to come back, it would have been years. Holden is also remembering the parts of Phoebe that he wants to remember - the roller skate skinny, the kid parts of her life, just like how he speaks about the good parts of Allie and not the bad. This shows that Holden is fairly focused on the good in others, but cannot find the good in himself.

Dermot

Why does Holden describe the rye field when responding to the fact that Allie is dead?

Holden chooses to use the rye field to describe why he loves Allie even though he is still dead. Allie never loosed her innocence in the mind of Holden which is the reason Holden perceives Allie as perfect. Holden believes that when you no longer have the innocence of being a child

then you are your life gets progressively worse as you fall into from the cliff. Holden wants to warn Phoebe not to fall off the cliff and loss her innocence. This moment is an example that Holden believes the only way to make sure that your life is perfect is by dying as an innocent child like Allie did.

Hanna

Concept pages 161-164

confidence vs. insecurity

When Holden first wakes up Phoebe, he is very concerned that his parents will come home and catch him. Holden keeps on interrupting Phoebe to ask when his parents would be home. When Phoebe told Holden that they would not be home for a while he “finally quit worrying about whether they’d catch me home or not. I figured the hell with it. If they did, they did.” (Salinger 163) However when his parents do come home a little bit later, Holden hides in Phoebe’s closet so they do not find him. It seems as though he wishes he was more confident than he actually is. Once he does not have to worry about a fear that he has, he pretends that it never scared him in the first place, which is interesting that is how he would explain someone that is “phony”. Also, it is like he is lying to himself, and what he is saying is directly contradicting what he is thinking.

## Reading Due 180-193

Roshni

Vocabulary pages 180-193

**Digression-** a temporary departure from the main subject in speech or writing.

“The digression business got on my nerves” (Salinger 183)

Holden explains to Mr. Antolini what he did in his Oral Expression class at Pencey, where the students yelled the word “digression” when the student presenting got off topic. Holden later claims that he hated that because he enjoyed the off topic subject more than the actual subject the student is suppose to be discussing. According to Holden the off-topic subjects were more interesting than the real subjects. Holden does not feel that the subjects he learns in school are interesting; he has interest elsewhere. This could be true, or Holden may be lying in his narration when he claims that that he enjoys the student digressing. He may just be enjoying the other students yelling at the student presenting because he often takes joy in other peoples unhappiness.

**Unify-**to make something united, uniform, or whole

“I mean you can’t hardly ever simplify and unify something just because somebody *wants* you to” (Salinger 185).

In this small section, Holden was explain to Mr. Antolini how one of his teachers at Pencey asked the students to put together the information they have learned, to “unify” it. They learn the information in separate parts, and the students are asked to put together the information they learned in order to understand their lessons. Holden does not feel as if he can always unify information just because someone asked you to because he does not always want to listen to his teachers. This can be another example of how Holden does not apply himself in school. He does not want to try hard enough to put together in information that he learned because he does not find any of his studies interesting. He does not want to commit time to study his subjects and make connections between them because he does not seem to care about school in general.

**Psychoanalyst-** a person who practices psychoanalysis, which is a system of psychological theory that aims to treat mental disorders by investigating the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind.

“Oddly enough, this was not written by a practicing poet. It was written by a psychoanalyst named Wilhelm Stekel” (Salinger 188).

Mr. Antolini is listening to how Holden talks about his problems with Pencey, and he makes the conclusion that Holden is dying nobly for an unworthy cause. He then explains a quote that this Psychoanalyst said which reads that the difference between people who are mature and immature is that immature people die nobly for a cause while mature people live humbly to fight for a

cause. A psychoanalyst said this because psychoanalysts study the human mind and learn about why humans think the way they because of certain elements. By thoroughly studying the human mind, this psychoanalyst must have made this conclusion about human actions.

Haofeng

When Mr. Antolini predicted that Holden would grow up to hate everybody, Holden fights back and makes an excuse. Do you think Mr. Antolini is right, and what does this show about Holden's character?

Holden yearns to become a child again and forget all his worries, yet he sneaks out of the house to go live with his old English teacher. What concept does this represent? How are Holden's actions similar to Odysseus' on his journey home?

Holden seems to be more comfortable around other adults rather than his own parents. Why do you think this is the case? From his actions, do you think Holden would more rather be an adult or a child?

Answering the second question: It represents a balance of contradictions. If Holden stayed at home and confessed everything to his parents, they would be upset but probably would try to help Holden in some way. Even though he was just reminiscing about his childhood and how he wanted to be worry-free, he ran away and went to live with Mr. Antolini. This contradiction is similar to Odysseus on his journey home: Odysseus wanted to return home to his wife and child, yet he succumbed to temptation and stayed with both Calypso and Circe, delaying his journey home.

Jacob – “Boy it seemed like twenty years ago” – his perspective on life – the story starting with pencey – just a couple of days or one but it seems so long with all the stuff that has happened – realism v fantasy – when you look at it for the realism part of it – the things he has been through during the day – Mr. Antolini and how he had to rush out of the apartment

Lily – I would choose the quote – that kind of stuff has happened to me twenty times since I was a kid – shows how he separates himself from his childhood – 20 times doesn't seem so realistic...

Steven S – same quote as Lily – shows about his past – stuff we don't know yet -0 a secret – hpw what has happened to him before affects him now

Roshni – claims he can't stand it – has had a sad childhood besides Allie dying – wants to be a kid but doesn't want bad things like this happening to him.

Steven M – most of the time he makes bad decisions – made a good decision here while leaving - got out – felt in danger...

Steven O – relates to unreliable narrator from Odyssey – seems unlikely – one of the things I would question about it – felt like 20 years – how did he do it all in 2 days – maybe longer exaggerating?

Roshni – I agree – like The Odyssey – 20 years and 20 times – Odyssey takes place over 20 years

Seth – I agree that Holden is not a reliable narrator – he might be downplaying what happened – embarrassed for Antolini...favorite teacher – could he be downplaying therefore?

Stephan – if he were that embarrassed he wouldn't even put it in the story – maybe he exaggerated it in the book – to add something to it to make it more interesting

Caitlin – he always is afraid of change – teacher is not the same person as he remembered – creepy teacher actions – same as when he left...trying to hold on to what he had before – does not want to be exposed to this teacher having changed...

Steven S – Holden more comfortable around adults – school friends also – still wants to be a child – hangs out with adults from school...

Sneha – worried that his parents are disappointed in him – does not want them to know the truth

Seth – Holden is not comfortable around any adults...throughout the book – ordered the prostitute – wanted to be cool casual and mature – confronted him for more money – he cried like a little kid – throughout the book – a little bit nervous

Dermot – Holden wasn't able to show how he is feeling on the inside – freaking out -0 I was shaking like a madman – feeling scared in this situation – on the outside – trying to play it down – as if he just wanted to leave with no incident...

Roshni – he does want his parents' acceptance – his parents may have changed as well – small periods of time like an English teacher – they haven't changed as much as the long arc of his parents changing with him

Jacob – whether he would be a child or an adult – preference – he says he wants to be a child but he really wants to be an adult – most people consider someone of that age a child – 16 – all of the times he has said – in my childhood or when I was a kid – even though he is still a child he is trying to separate from it

Haofeng – he thinks ironically of himself as an adult – fatherly figure to Phoebe – but Phoebe gives him the money and advice...



Hanna – more comfortable around other adults – does not talk about his parents that much – first page of the book – two hemorrhages a piece – something going on that we don't know about – to protect them in a way – Phoebe tells him that his dad will kill them – might be disappointed in him...with all the situations we have seen – adults know he can try harder

Andrew – adult or a child – does not want to be either – catcher in the rye – not really on one side...doesn't want to go to child side – incidents like Antolini happened – doesn't want to go into the museum...

Will – sees himself as an adult – takes responsibility for his actions – didn't want to confront his parents about it – man up for his actions but he doesn't

Georgina – Holden scared of change – does not want the perception to change – wants to put him in a glass case....

Haofeng

Holden yearns to become a child again and forget all his worries, yet he sneaks out of the house to go live with his old English teacher. What concept does this represent? How are Holden's actions similar to Odysseus' on his journey home?

It represents a balance of contradictions. If Holden stayed at home and confessed everything to his parents, they would be upset but probably would try to help Holden in some way. Even though he was just reminiscing about his childhood and how he wanted to be worry-free, he ran away and went to live with Mr. Antolini. This contradiction is similar to Odysseus on his journey home: Odysseus wanted to return home to his wife and child, yet he succumbed to temptation and stayed with both Calypso and Circe, delaying his journey home.

Reading Due 194-214

Lily

Thought Questions pages 194-203

On page 198, what does his depressing feelings show about his character?

Why was Holden talking to Allie, did he really think he was dying?

Why did Holden want to start his whole life over and move to somewhere that no one knows him?

Georgina Thought Questions page 204-214

1) Why does Holden decide to meet Phoebe at the museum? What is this action saying about his character?

2) Why does Holden abort his plan to run away when Phoebe declares she will go with him? Does this action demonstrate Holden showing responsibility?

3) On page 213, Holden says, "I was damn near bawling, I felt so damn happy, if you want to know the truth." when he was watching Phoebe ride the carousel. Do you think Holden is regretting growing up too fast? Why?

Elya

The Catcher in the Rye concept page 194-203

Concept- Reality vs Fantasy

Passage- "Anyway, I kept walking and walking up Fifth Avenue, without any tie on or anything...and give her back her Christmas dough, and then I'd start hitchhiking my way out West." (197-198)

Walking up Fifth Avenue, Holden, all of a sudden feels something very spooky happening. Everytime he would come to the end of a block and step off the curb, he would get this feeling that he'd never get to the other side of the street safely. He imagines himself go down, down, down and no one would ever see him again, instantaneously vanishing quite like an illusion. An illusion is something that deceives by producing a false or misleading impression of reality. Holden was so terrified that he started sweating. Everytime Holden would get to the end of the block, he would pray to his brother Allie saying "Allie, don't let me desipere. Allie, don't let me desipere. Allie, don't let me desipere. Please, Allie." When Holden would reach the end of the street without disappearing he would thank Allie. This shows that what Mr. Antolini said was partly correct in how Holden does not feel connected to his environment. He feels like he cannot relate to anyone and is unsure how to deal with adult encounters. The only action he feels would be appropriate is to run away. He is unable to deal with the world around him so as a result, runs away from his problems.

Miyu

pg. 204- 214

Concept: **Phoebe's childhood vs. Holden's childhood**

Passage:

"Do you want to go for a ride on it... and I was sort of afraid she'd fall off the goddam horse" (Salinger 211).

"I felt so damn happy all of a sudden... God I wish you could've been there"(Salinger 213).

Holden's childhood is a happy place for him and when he describes it, he yearns for the past. All Holden can do to get close to his youth days is to talk about how he used to watch Phoebe skate, or how he can go to the museum and know where everything is, or how the school steps still smell the same. He wants to go back and relive his childhood, but he can't so he wants Phoebe to relive her childhood. When she goes on the carousel, not only does she experience a part of her old self, but he does too. When Phoebe says that she is too big to ride on the carousel, Holden tells her that she isn't and persuades her to go on because he wants to be able to feel a part of his boyhood and he wants to make sure that things like this didn't change. Holden feels carefree and happy when he sees her riding the ride because it's like their childhood hasn't changed or they haven't grown up and they are both turning back the clock.

Lily

Why did Holden want to start his whole life over and move to somewhere that no one knows him?

↳ Holden wanted to start a new life where he can be who he really is without all of the memories of his childhood when Allie was still alive. Also, he wanted to become an adult and get a job and try to live on his own without talking to anyone. I think that Holden does not actually want to be alone, but he does want to start over. Also, I think this fantasy is not realistic because Holden does not know how to make good decisions for himself and can not manage his life on his own even though he thinks he can.

Georgina

Why does Holden decide to meet Phoebe at the museum? What is this action saying about his character?

In a previous scene where Holden was talking about the Museum, he talks about glass cases. The cases have come to symbolize Holden's childhood, and him wanting to stop everything before it changes because he is scared of change. The fact that Holden is going back to the Museum to meet his sister show that he is "breaking the glass". Previously, when Holden has talked about Phoebe, it has always been in a positive way. He called her intelligent, a little kid, and roller-skate skinny. This shows that Holden wants to stop dwelling on the past, and take things more seriously, like at school.

Jacob – reached into my coat pocket – red hunting hat – character tone and setting – carousel – important – Phoebe used to love going on that – kids trying to grab the ring – didn't near kill him – emotional moment – rekindling his relationship with Phoebe – three days and so much – doesn't seem real...something apparent to him – turning point – maybe he could get his life back – ok – he has been kicked out of Pencey...

Stephan – she looked so damn nice – kind of shows how Holden is missing his childhood at the time he wanted to grow up now he wants to go back to being a child – balance of contradictions

Steven S – always play the same songs – represented how he wants his life to stay the same and not to change – carousel plays the same song – just there with Phoebe – fig lang – carousel – wishes his life was the same

Hanna – symbolizes so much – the falling lines – he is finally happy – he kept trying to reach for the happiness he has messed up a lot of times like they will fall off – catcher in the rye – stop the kids from falling – she needs to do it by herself...you need to be able to get through things by herself...

Sneha – losing your childhood is inevitable – can't avoid it – he has accepted that – happy because she still has her childhood

Roshni – red hunting hat on Holden – a contradiction – Phoebe still knows he wants to be a kid...flaps to cover his gray hair – usually kids that small – don't feel self-conscious – a kid wouldn't need a hat to cover himself up...

Andrew – catcher in the rye – trying to catch Phoebe falling off the cliff into adulthood – convincing himself to let them go – they have to make their own decisions what to do – played the same songs 50 years ago – carousel is the glass box – by letting Phoebe ride on it

Seth – I agree with Andrew – I used the quote – not sitting with the mothers – content with staying on the bench – not quite like the adults and too old for the kids – in this case he is happy to be where he is...can't stop corruption

Caitlin – Holden fears change – first time happy – reliving his childhood memories through Phoebe – he calls her old Phoebe – he will let her fall – really happy here – so damn happy the way she was going around and around – happy on the bench...

Amanda – before when Holden gives Phoebe the hunting hat – he has let himself fall off the cliff – he lets her become the catcher – that moment – pouring – his last moment before his childhood ends...catcher is a phase...

Jacob – do you think the red hat symbolizes something deeper?

Roshni – on the last page – I miss that goddamn Maurice – Greek concept of nostalgia – he didn't actually – mention his home but did go to Pencey...

Sneha – to add on to Roshni – represents how humans feel in general – you are just doing it – not thinking of the deeper meaning of things – you miss the people there...

Stephan – why does he miss everyone he told the story about?

Dani – how is him missing people contradict how isolated he was at the start?

Roshni – irony – Cai Yen wanted to go back to Han – wanted to go back but then when she does go back has to abandon her children – actually isolated from people and misses everyone...

Seth – does Holden do well – is he going to try and do well? Will Holden apply himself? I think he will...

Caitlin – he will apply himself – gold ring scenario affected him – we don't know what happened – all of his memories – three days had a huge effect – he will keep reaching for the gold ring and keep falling...

Haofeng – there is also a chance that he will get kicked out again and repeat the cycle – like a carousel going around – one of those people who floats around – observes...

Will – if you tell people stuff – you start missing everybody – why?

Steven M – I was thinking if this really were his last 3 days of childhood – missing Stradlater and Ackley and even Maurice – childhood is in that box now and he will never get back to it – remembers it nicely even though it wasn't so nice – an unreliable narrator

Roshni - around and around in the blue coat – like Einstein's Dreams. Asked if he will apply himself – repeat itself again...

Dani – saying that he is not a child anymore – understands – now that he has gone through this experience – realize this is what he wants to do

Steven M – I guess now he has a responsibility – for his sister and stuff...

Hanna – you are an ace composition writer – a really good descriptive piece for Stradlater – naturally smart – he doesn't care for getting a grade on it

Steven O – in the beginning his whole opinion shifted – still holds that opinion but it is important – he will put his own effort into it – childhood ended – he'll do better essays