

The Catcher in the Rye: Review for the Test

Structure of the test:

- Part I: Matching characters
- Part II: Multiple choice
- Part III: Short answer
- Part IV: Quote analysis

Characters to know:

Holden's family members:

Phoebe
Allie
D.B.

People at Pencey:

Ackley
Stradlater
Mr. Spencer

People he meets in New York:

Mrs. Morrow
Faith Cavendish
Taxicab driver (Horowitz)
Tourists in the Lavender Room
Ernie
Sunny
Maurice

Old friends:

Jane Gallagher
Sally Hayes
Carl Luce
Mr. Antolini
James Castle

General Plot knowledge/Themes/Ideas/Concepts

- Know each major episode and its significance
- Know the values that Holden esteems and tries to support and express in his own life
- Know the traits that Holden hates and criticizes. Know what he dislikes and why
- Know things that make Holden happy
- Know some of the conflicts that Holden experiences
- Know signs of Holden's deterioration and be able to list examples that show this
- Know examples of Holden's inability to communicate with others
- Know how Holden's antiheroic experiences and qualities contrast with the traditional hero

Quote analysis:

Be able to identify speaker and fully analyze the quote. You should discuss how the quote is connected to the plot and to the themes of the story and explain why the quote is significant. Be sure to connect the quote to the issues that we discussed in class. There will be **three** quotes selected from those listed below.

"What I was really hanging around for, I was trying to feel some kind of good-by. I mean I've left schools and places I didn't even know I was leaving them. I hate that. I don't care if it's a sad good-by or a bad good-by, but when I leave a place I like to *know* I'm leaving. If you don't, you feel even worse." (4)

“The snow was very good for packing. I didn’t throw it at anything, though. I *started* to throw it. At a car that was parked across the street. But I changed my mind. The car looked so nice and white. Then I started to throw it at a hydrant, but that looked too nice and white too. Finally I didn’t throw it at anything.” (36)

“Certain things they should stay the way they are. You ought to be able to stick them in one of those big glass cases and just leave them alone. I know that’s impossible, but it’s too bad anyway.” (122)

“You don’t like *anything* that’s happening... You don’t like any schools. You don’t like a million things. You *don’t*.” (169)

“...I’m standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. What I have to do, I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff—I mean if they are running and they don’t look where they are going I have to come out from somewhere and *catch* them. That’s what I’d do all day.” (173)

“This fall I think you are riding for—it’s a special kind of fall, a horrible kind. The man falling isn’t permitted to feel or hear himself hit bottom. He just keeps falling and falling. The whole arrangement’s designed for men, who, at some time or other in their lives, were looking for something their own environment couldn’t supply them with. Or they thought their own environment couldn’t supply them with. So they gave up looking. They gave up before they ever really even got started.” (187)

“You can’t ever find a place that’s nice and peaceful, because there isn’t any. You may *think* there is, but once you get there, when you’re not looking, somebody’ll sneak up and write ‘Fuck you’ right under your nose. Try it sometime.” (204)

“The thing with kids is, if they want to grab for the gold ring, you have to let them do it, and not say anything. If they fall off, they fall off, but it’s bad if you say anything to them.” (211)