

# Lockport Township High School District 205

Garry W. Raymond, Ph.D., Superintendent  
815/588-8100

Peter M. Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction  
815/588-8102



Todd P. Wernet, Assistant Superintendent  
Personnel  
815/588-8103

19 May 2009

Dear Junior Student:

The English Department of Lockport High School has instituted a Required Summer Reading Program for all juniors (class of 2011). As part of the program, you will be expected to complete the reading requirements listed below:

**Students enrolled in American Literature 11R are to read the following:**

**Salinger, J. D.**

**The Catcher in the Rye**

This book will be available at your local public library, or it may be purchased from the Barnes and Noble or the Borders in Joliet and Orland Park. You may also obtain the novel from various online booksellers such as Amazon.com.

Please see the attached study guide to help focus your reading and increase your understanding of the book. Reviewing the questions and reflecting on the possible answers will enhance your reading experience.

You will be assessed on your summer reading during the beginning of school in August. You will have to write an essay about your book and take a test on it. Consequently, your careful reading of *The Catcher in the Rye* will get you off to a good start in the fall. We encourage you to read the summer assignment in manageable sections and hope that you find it enjoyable. We look forward to reading your reactions in August.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dennis Hicks in black ink.

Dennis Hicks  
Central Campus Principal

Handwritten signature of Brett Gould in black ink.

Brett Gould  
East Campus Principal

Handwritten signature of Thomas O'Brien in black ink.

Thomas O'Brien  
English Dept. Chair

P.S. You can find this information on our school web page.

Freshman Center – Central Campus  
1222 South Jefferson Street  
Lockport, Illinois 60441-3597  
815/588-8200 Fax: 815/588-8209

District Administrative Center  
1323 East Seventh Street  
Lockport, Illinois 60441-3899  
815/588-8000 Fax: 815/588-8109

East Campus  
1333 East Seventh Street  
Lockport, Illinois 60441-3898  
815/588-8300 Fax: 815/588-8309

Summer 2009 Required Reading for all students in English 11R

## *The Catcher in the Rye*

### STUDY GUIDE

#### Chapters 1-4

1. Who is Holden Caulfield?
2. Where is Holden as he narrates the story?
3. Why wasn't Holden at the big football game?
4. Why wouldn't Holden be back to Pencey after Christmas vacation?
5. What "dirty trick" did Mr. Spencer pull on Holden?
6. Who was Robert Ackley?
7. Who was Stradlater?
8. Identify Jane Gallagher.
9. Why doesn't Holden go down to see Jane?

#### Chapters 5-9

1. About what did Holden write Stradlater's composition?
2. Why did Holden tear up the composition he had written for Stradlater?
3. Why did Stradlater hit Holden?
4. Where did Holden decide to go?
5. Who did Holden meet on his train ride? Why did Holden lie to her about Ernie?

#### Chapters 10-13

1. Who is Phoebe?
2. Identify Bernice, Marty and Laverne.
3. Describe Holden's relationship with Jane Gallagher.
4. Why did Holden have to leave Ernie's?
5. What do we learn about Holden from his diversion about his gloves being stolen at Pencey?
6. What was the "big mess" Holden got into when he got back to the hotel after being at Ernie's?

#### Chapters 14-17

1. Why did Maurice hit Holden?
2. Holden said he felt like committing suicide. Why didn't he?
3. Identify Sally Hayes.
4. Why did Holden check out of the hotel, and where did he go?
5. Who did Holden meet at the "little sandwich bar" after he locked his bags at the station?  
What did they talk about?
6. What record did Holden get for Phoebe? Why?
7. What made Holden "not so depressed anymore" on his way to the record store?
8. Why didn't Holden like actors?
9. Why did Holden like the museum so much?
10. What did Holden think of "George something--"?
11. How did Holden's feelings for Sally change from the beginning of the date to the end?

Chapters 18-21

1. What did Holden think of the show at Radio City?
2. Why did Holden call Carl Luce even though he didn't like him much?
3. What did Holden and Luce discuss?
4. Why did Holden go home so early (before Wednesday)?
5. What was Phoebe's reaction when she first saw Holden? What was her reaction when she found out that he had been expelled?

Chapters 22-26

1. What was Holden's reply when Phoebe asked him why he "got the ax again"?
2. Identify James Castle.
3. Why did Holden go to Mr. Antolini's house?
4. Why did Holden leave Mr. Antolini's home before morning?
5. What advice did Mr. Antolini give Holden?
6. How did Phoebe surprise Holden? What was Holden's reaction?
7. Why did Holden sit on the bench in the rain even though it was coming down in buckets?
8. How did Holden explain his catcher in the rye daydream?

Interpretation

1. Explain how J.D. Salinger's using Holden as the narrator affects our understanding of the events in *The Catcher in the Rye*.
2. If you were to rewrite *The Catcher in the Rye* as a play, where would you start and end each chapter? Explain why.
3. What are the conflicts in the story? Are they resolved by the end of the story? If so, how? If not, why not?
4. What is the setting of the story? How does the setting contribute to ideas presented in the story?
5. Who are the people Holden likes in the story? Why does he like them?

Critical

6. Describe Holden's relationship with Phoebe.
7. Are Holden's actions believably motivated? Explain why or why not.
8. What is the problem with Holden's life?
9. Characterize J.D. Salinger's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the novel?
10. Holden often says he is going to call someone, but he doesn't do it because he isn't in the mood. What could these uncompleted calls symbolize?
11. Why can Holden honestly communicate with Phoebe when he cannot with anyone else?
12. What does Holden have against the movies?

13. Explain how the title relates to the events of the novel and the themes of *The Catcher in the Rye*.
14. Compare and contrast Jane Gallagher and Sally Hayes.
15. Compare and contrast Holden's real world with his fantasy world.
16. Are the characters in *The Catcher in the Rye* stereotypes? If so, explain why J.D. Salinger used stereotypes. If not, explain how the characters merit individuality.
17. Why does Holden keep thinking about Jane Gallagher?
18. Why does Holden want to know about the ducks in Central Park?
19. Why did Holden start to cry when Phoebe gave him her Christmas money?
20. What effect did Allie's death have on Holden?
21. Psychoanalyze Holden. What is at the root of his problems?
22. Why can't anyone help Holden?
23. For what was Holden looking during his four-day "vacation"?
24. What kinds of books did Holden like? Why?
25. Discuss the importance and the role of these characters in *The Catcher in the Rye*: Mr. Spencer, Stradlater, Jane Gallagher, Allie, Ernie's mother, Lillian Simmons, Sunny, Sally Hayes, Maurice, the nuns, Carl Luce James Castle, and Mr. Antolini.
26. Explain the symbolic importance of the broken record, the ducks, Grand Central Station, and the hunting hat.

Critical/Personal Response

27. Is Holden a phony?
28. In Chapter 22, Holden asks, "How would you know you weren't being a phony?" Why would Holden think this would be a problem for someone?
29. Was Holden a coward?
30. Do you think the sibling relationship between Holden and Phoebe is realistic? Explain why or why not.

31. Holden thinks most people are a pain in the neck. Is Holden a pain in the neck, too?
32. Is Holden a sympathetic character? (Do we sympathize with him?)
33. Why do you suppose Phoebe decided to go with Holden and not return to school?
34. Is Holden "normal"? Do you think other students at Pencey felt the same way he did?

Personal Response

35. Did you enjoy reading *The Catcher in the Rye*? Why or why not?
36. If Holden had written a poem about his life, what would it have been? Write the poem as you think Holden would have written it.
37. If Holden were a student at your school, would you be his friend? Why or why not?