

# The Catcher in the Rye

## by J.D. Salinger

Access the *Catcher in the Rye* **Topic Page** through your assigned Gale resource. Use the **Topic Page** before, during, and after reading the novel to help answer the questions below.

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### BEFORE READING:

Use the assigned Gale resource to answer the following:

1. Research and provide background information about the author, J.D. Salinger. What are some key aspects of his life and writing career?

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2. Investigate the historical context of the novel, specifically the post-World War II era in the United States. What were some significant social and cultural changes during this time?

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From your own knowledge before you read.

1. What do you think “the catcher in the rye” might mean? What ideas or images does it evoke?

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## DURING READING:

As you read *The Catcher in the Rye*, take notes on the developments of the characters in the novel, how do you meet each character, how does your understanding of them change as they go through the book, why does it change. Make sure to be specific with examples (include page numbers).

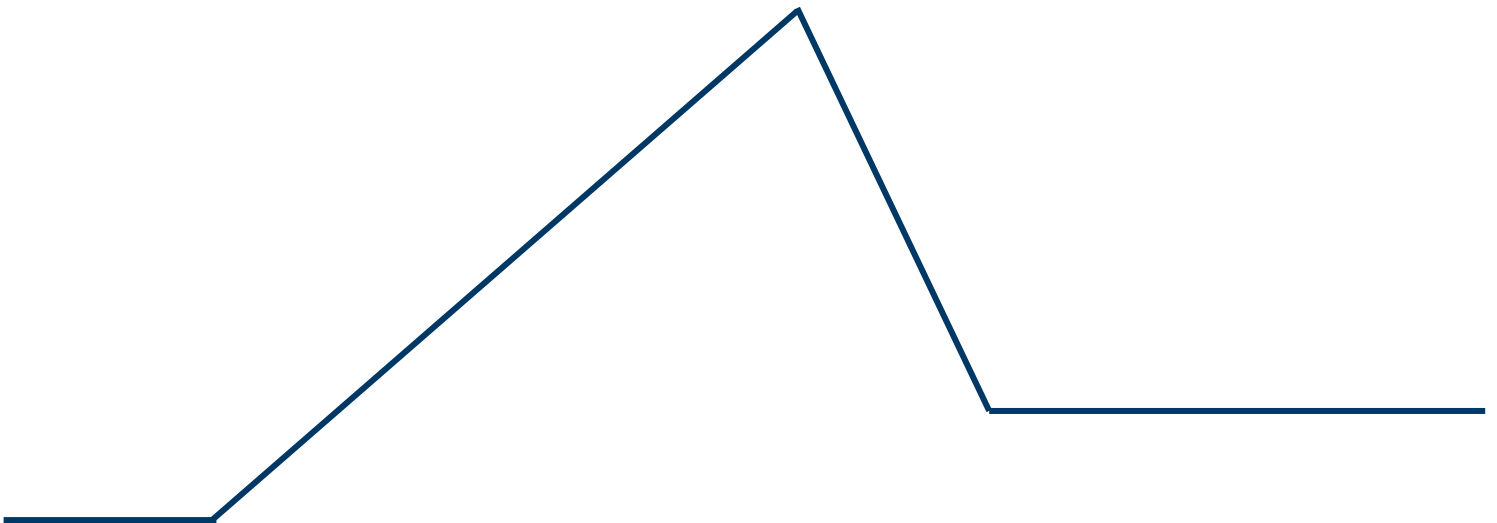
<b>CHARACTERS</b>	
<b>Holden Caulfield</b>	
<b>Phoebe Caulfield</b>	
<b>Allie Caulfield</b>	
<b>D.B. Caulfield</b>	
<b>Mr. Antolini</b>	
<b>Jane Gallagher</b>	
<b>Stradlater</b>	

## DURING READING:

The following are the themes depicted in *The Catcher in the Rye*. As you read, take notes (including page numbers) of how you see these themes portrayed in the book.

THEMES	
<b>Alienation</b>	
<b>Innocence/Loss of Innocence</b>	
<b>Cynicism</b>	

Complete the plot diagram below, filling in events for each element of the story including the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.



## AFTER READING:

1. Reflect on Holden's recurring phrase, "catcher in the rye". What does he mean by it, and how does it relate to his view of the world and his desire to protect innocence? Do you think Holden achieves this goal?

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2. Discuss the significance of the novel's setting, primarily New York City. How does the city function as a symbol or backdrop for Holden's experiences and emotions?

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3. Should people be allowed to quit society like Holden wants to? Why or Why not?

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4. Consider the controversial nature of *The Catcher in the Rye* and its impact on literature and society. Why do you think the novel has been both praised and criticized?

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5. Use the **Magazine** and **News** sections of the *Catcher in the Rye* **Topic Page** in your Gale resource: What is its current legacy? Why do you think people are still talking about *The Catcher in the Rye* today?

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