

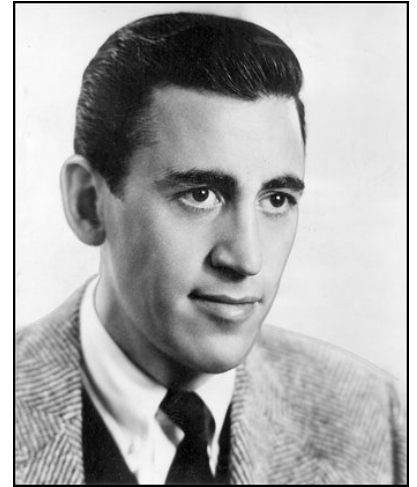
Name: _____ Gr.: _____

Novel Code: _____

Catcher in the Rye
By J. D. Salinger

- Read the following question.
- Share your answers with your group/ class.

What does it mean to leave childhood behind?



- Read the following text.
- Underline any relevant information/facts about the about.

J. D. Salinger, Literary Recluse, Dies at 91

By Charles McGrath

N.Y. Times

Published: January 28, 2010

J. D. Salinger, who was thought at one time to be the most important American writer to emerge since World War II but who then turned his back on success and adulation, becoming the Garbo of letters, famous for not wanting to be famous, died on Wednesday at his home in Cornish, N.H., where he had lived in seclusion for more than 50 years. He was 91.

Mr. Salinger's literary representative, Harold Ober Associates, announced the death, saying it was of natural causes. "Despite having broken his hip in May," the agency said, "his health had been excellent until a rather sudden decline after the new year. He was not in any pain before or at the time of his death."

Mr. Salinger's literary reputation rests on a slender but enormously influential body of published work: the novel "The Catcher in the Rye," the collection "Nine Stories" and two compilations, each with two long stories about the fictional Glass family: "Franny and Zooey" and "Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction."

“Catcher” was published in 1951, and its very first sentence, distantly echoing Mark Twain, struck a brash new note in American literature: “If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you’ll probably want to know is where I was born and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don’t feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth.”

Though not everyone, teachers and librarians especially, was sure what to make of it, “Catcher” became an almost immediate best seller, and its narrator and main character, Holden Caulfield, a teenager newly expelled from prep school, became America’s best-known literary truant since Huckleberry Finn.

With its cynical, slangy vernacular voice (Holden’s two favorite expressions are “phony” and “goddam”), its sympathetic understanding of adolescence and its fierce if alienated sense of morality and distrust of the adult world, the novel struck a nerve in cold war America and quickly attained cult status, especially among the young. Reading “Catcher” used to be an essential rite of passage, almost as important as getting your learner’s permit.

The novel’s allure persists to this day, even if some of Holden’s preoccupations now seem a bit dated, and it continues to sell more than 250,000 copies a year in paperback. Mark David Chapman, who killed John Lennon in 1980, even said the explanation for his act could be found in the pages of “The Catcher in the Rye.” In 1974 Philip Roth wrote, “The response of college students to the work of J. D. Salinger indicates that he, more than anyone else, has not turned his back on the times but, instead, has managed to put his finger on whatever struggle of significance is going on today between self and culture.”

Many critics were more admiring of “Nine Stories,” which came out in 1953 and helped shape writers like Mr. Roth, John Updike and Harold Brodkey. The stories were remarkable for their sharp social observation, their pitch-perfect dialogue (Mr. Salinger, who used italics almost as a form of musical notation, was a master not of literary speech but of speech as people actually spoke it) and the way they demolished whatever was left of the traditional architecture of the short story — the old structure of beginning, middle, end — for an architecture of emotion, in which a story could turn on a tiny alteration of mood or irony. Mr. Updike said he admired “that open-ended Zen quality they have, the way they don’t snap shut.”

Mr. Salinger also perfected the great trick of literary irony — of validating what you mean by saying less than, or even the opposite of, what you intend. Orville Prescott wrote in *The New York Times* in 1963, “Rarely if ever in literary history has a handful of stories aroused so much discussion, controversy, praise, denunciation, mystification and interpretation.”

As a young man Mr. Salinger yearned ardently for just this kind of attention. He bragged in college about his literary talent and ambitions, and wrote swaggering letters to Whit Burnett, the editor of *Story* magazine. But success, once it arrived, paled quickly for him. He told the editors of *Saturday Review* that he was “good and sick” of seeing his photograph on the dust jacket of “The Catcher in the Rye” and demanded that it be removed from subsequent editions. He ordered his agent to burn any fan mail. In 1953 Mr. Salinger, who had been living on East 57th Street in Manhattan, fled the

literary world altogether and moved to a 90-acre compound on a wooded hillside in Cornish. He seemed to be fulfilling Holden's desire to build himself "a little cabin somewhere with the dough I made and live there for the rest of my life," away from "any goddam stupid conversation with anybody."

- **Answer the following...**

Describe J.D. Salinger.

Why should you read *Catcher in the Rye*?

Cloze Passage for the Catcher in the Rye

- Below is a passage from the book you are about to start reading.
- Using your best reading inference skills, try to guess the words that should be in the blank spaces.

If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy _____ was like, and how _____ parents were occupied and _____ before they had me, _____ all the David Copperfield _____ of crap, but I _____ feel like going into _____, if you want to _____ the truth. In the _____ place, that stuff bores _____, and in the second _____, my parents would have _____ two haemorrhages apiece if _____ told anything pretty personal _____ them. They're quite touchy _____ anything like that, especially _____ father. They're *nice* and _____ - I'm not saying that - _____ they're also touchy as _____. Besides, I'm not going _____ tell you my whole _____ autobiography or anything. I'll _____ tell you about this _____ stuff that happened to _____ around last Christmas just _____ I got pretty run-down _____ had to come out _____ and take it easy. _____ mean that's all I _____ D.B. about, and he's _____ *brother* and all. He's _____ Hollywood. That isn't too _____ from this crumby place, _____ he comes over and _____ me practically every weekend. _____ going to drive me _____ when I go home _____ month maybe. He just _____ a Jaguar. One of _____ little English jobs that _____ do around two hundred _____ an hour. It cost _____ damn near four thousand _____. He's got a lot _____ dough, now. Hw didn't _____ to. He used to _____ just a regular writer, _____ he was home. He _____ this terrific book of _____ stories, *The Secret Goldfish*, _____ case you never heard of him. The best one in it was "The Secret Goldfish." It was about this little kid that wouldn't let anybody look at his goldfish because he'd bought it with his own money. It killed me.

- **Now, check your answers and start reading! (Chapter 1)**

Assignment 1: Slang List (Chapter 1)

- As you read, keep a list of slang.
- Try to find the meaning of each by using the dictionary and/or contextual clues etc.
- Write your list in your notebook.

Assignment 2: Most Important Quote (Chapters 2-4)

- While reading, search for the most significant/important quote, line, or phrase from the section.
- Be ready to defend your choice.

Reasons for your choice:

**Excerpts from *Civil Disobedience*
By Henry David Thoreau**

- Read the following excerpts.
- Choose one and try to explain/summarise its meaning.
- Explain how it relates to your life.
- Write your answers/ideas below.
- Be prepared to share/discuss your ideas with the rest of class.

Must the citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator? Why has every man a conscience then? I think that we should be men first, and subjects afterward. It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right. The only obligation which I have a right to assume is to do at any time what I think right.

The State never intentionally confronts a man's sense, intellectual or moral, but only his body, his senses. It is not armed with superior wit or honesty, but with superior physical strength. I was not born to be forced. I will breathe after my own fashion. Let us see who is the strongest.

I saw to what extent the people among whom I lived could be trusted as good neighbors and friends; that their friendship was for summer weather only; that they did not greatly propose to do right; that they were a distinct race from me by their prejudices and superstitions.

I HEARTILY ACCEPT the motto, — "That government is best which governs least"; and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically. Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which also I believe, — "That government is best which governs not at all"; and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have.

But, to speak practically and as a citizen, unlike those who call themselves no-government men, I ask for, not at once no government, but *at once* a better government. Let every man make known what kind of government would command his respect, and that will be one step toward obtaining it.

Here's an excerpt of Walden. Not only is it important, but you'll see links with *Catcher in the Rye*.

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, to discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and to be able to give a true account of it.

Assignment 3 (Optional): Biopoem

Writing a Bio-Poem

Introduce yourself through a Bio-poem. Follow the form of the sample Bio-poem below. Remember: your Bio-poem can be whatever length you want it to be. It doesn't have to be twelve lines long, and you don't have to include exactly three ideas in any of the lines. The form is a simple guideline. Make sure that you do use words that are descriptive, colourful and lively. It should be YOUR creative expression about YOU.

Suggested Bio-Poem Form

- Line 1: Your full name
- Line 2: Who is...(Descriptive words that describe you)
- Line 3: Who is brother or sister of...
- Line 4: Who loves...(three ideas or people)
- Line 5: Who feels...(three ideas)
- Line 6: Who needs...(three ideas)
- Line 7: Who gives...(three ideas)
- Line 8: Who fears...(three ideas)
- Line 9: Who would like to see...
- Line 10: Who shares...
- Line 11: Who is...
- Line 12: Who is a resident of...

Example:

Katie Michelle

Caring, loyal, sarcastic, dramatic,

Wife of an amazing husband, sister of many, daughter of two,

Lover of dancing in the rain, laughing with friends, curling up with a good book,

Who feels greatly blessed, the need to write, happy in a new pair of shoes,

Who needs to make a difference, a daily dose of chocolate, to feel loved,

Who fears crawly-creepy creatures, noises in the dark, and the reality of never enough time,

Who gives her heart, a listening ear, twenty percent tips,

Who would like to see graduation, herself as a mother, the world,

Former resident of London (and longing to return)

Free-writing questions

- Read the questions below.
- Take a few minutes to think about your answers.
- Write your answers in the spaces provided.
- Make your answers as detailed as possible.

What does it mean to be unique?

How do you keep your individuality in the adult world?

Assignment 4 -- WebQuest

- Use the Internet to collect information on J.D. Salinger and censorship issues of *The Catcher in Rye*.

On J.D. Salinger :

Censorship issues of *The Catcher in Rye* .:

Characterization

- Form teams (3-4)
- Choose one character each
- Complete the chart below
- Share your findings with your partners

Character's Name: _____

Type of Indirect Characterization	Examples for the Novel	Insight/Reaction
Speech		
Thoughts		
Effect on others		
Actions		
Looks		

Free Write: When is it OK to lie?

Instructions:

- Think about the question above
- Write your response below
- Share with your classmates

Holden and Mrs Morrow

Instructions:

- Rewrite the dialogue, that starts on page 54 (approx), between Holden and Mrs. Morrow.
- **BUT this time** have Holden telling the **absolute truth**.
- Write your script in your notebook.
- Perform your dialogue in front of the class.

- **The Final Chapters!**

**The Catcher in the Rye -- Chapters 20, 21, 22
Selective Reading Guide – Preparation and Evaluation**

Instructions:

- This section of the novel is **especially important!** Take your time while reading, and answer the following questions **THOUGHTFULLY** (that means more than one word answers) to help you successfully understand Salinger 's message(s).
- What's more, you'll be having a small group discussion concerning the following questions next class. This discussion will be evaluated for your oral abilities (C1) and your understanding of the novel (C2).
- Please note that page numbers may be approximate as each group/class has a different edition of the novel. Which means you **may have to re-read one or two pages more than indicated.**
- This exercise/evaluation will be of great help in preparation for the test and your project.

1. Page 154. Holden visits the lagoon and searches for the ducks that usually live there. Find another place in the text where the ducks are mentioned. What is the page number? Why do you think Holden is so worried about the ducks?

2. Pages 155-156. Holden mentions visiting Allie's grave with his parents. He says, "It wasn't too bad when the sun was out, but twice- twice- we were there when it started to rain ... All the visitors ... started running like hell over to their cars ... " Why is Holden so upset by this incident?

3. What effect do you think Allie's death has had on Holden? Find a couple of textual references (with page numbers) that support your reasoning.

4. Page 165. When Phoebe finds out that Holden has been kicked out of school, she says, "Daddy'll kill you!" What kind of expectations do you think Holden's parents have for him?

5. What kind of expectations do your parents have for you? Do you always see eye-to-eye?

5. Page 167. Holden gives Phoebe several reasons for leaving Pencey Prep. List two reasons.

6. Do you think he is justified in his decision to perform poorly at school?

7. Page 167-170. Do you see any similarities between Holden's school and our high school? How are people treated? Are there expectations that have to be met in order to "fit-in?"

8. Page 161-180. What kind of relationship do Holden and Phoebe have? What makes you say; this?

9. Page 172. Holden gives very explicit reasons for not wanting to become a lawyer when he "grows up." Holden asks, "How would you know you weren't being a phony?" Do you think some people choose careers just for the glory associated with it? What do you picture yourself doing when you "grow up?" Why does that career appeal to you?

10. Page 173. Why do you think Holden wants to be a *catcher in the rye*?

The Catcher in the Rye -- Glossary

ace: top-quality, of the highest order

backasswards: completely wrong, misdirected, or out of order, so backwards that the rear or "ass" is at the fore

Benedict Arnold: perhaps the most famous traitor in American history, a man who fled from the American side during the Revolutionary War in order to give information to the British

bourgeois: pertaining to the phony, middle-class or better lifestyle

Brown Betty: an American dessert of baked pudding that dates back to colonial times

caddy : person who accompanies a golfer on the course and carries his bag of clubs, sometimes giving advice about a shot

canasta: a card game similar to Rummy in which the object is to score the most points by creating melds of cards of the same rank, playing cards out of one's hand onto the table, eventually playing out all of one's cards

chiffonier: similar to a sideboard, a type of furniture with drawers that serves as a receptacle for odds and ends

cockneyed: shifted to one side

dough: money (slang)

earlap: the flap on a hunter's hat that covers one's ear to protect it from the weather

falsies: artificial breast enhancers worn inside one's dress

flitty: appearing homosexual

Flys Up: a playground variation of baseball where whoever catches a fly ball gets the next turn at bat

Furlough: a break in action or temporary leave of absence, usually in the military

get wise with: to make sexual advances

give her the time: to have intercourse with a female

Gladstone: type of luggage

grippe: influenza; the flu

halitosis: a condition of having bad-smelling breath

highball: an alcoholic drink usually involving whisky in a tall glass

kills me: Holden uses this term whenever something makes him feel pangs of love or similar emotion. For example, the notebooks of young kids "kill" him in that they push him to open up his hardened heart.

louse: a contemptible person

neck: to kiss or make out

pacifist: a person who is against war and believes in peace as a matter of principle (Holden calls himself one)

Peter Lorre: a famous character actor

phony: anyone who is inauthentic; one who lives on the surface or subscribes to artifice (Holden believes that most adults are phonies)

prince: a "good guy"; someone who is valorous and noble

ratty: tattered, dilapidated

rubbernecks: people who turn their heads to watch something out of curiosity, especially when it is none of their business

rye: grass grown as a food crop, closely related to wheat and barley

shadow punching: boxing against an imaginary opponent

snowing: fooling; pulling the wool over someone's eyes

strong box: a safe for storing valuables

Tattersall: a cloth pattern

the Lunts: famous stage actors who drew large crowds

West Point: famous military academy in the United States

wooden press: a kind of case for a wooden tennis racket, which kept it from warping (prior to modern tennis rackets made of other materials)