English 10
Ms. Mulrooney

CATCHER IN THE RYE
About the Author

- Jerome David Salinger (J. D. Salinger)
- Salinger was born in NYC in 1919
- He attended Columbia University, among other colleges, but did not graduate from any of them
- He fought in the army in Europe during World War II
- Salinger wrote many stories which were published in many magazines
J.D. Salinger

- Salinger’s only full length novel, *Catcher in the Rye*, was published in 1951
- The novel is controversial, but a hugely popular bestseller and critical success
- Salinger had withdrawn from society almost completely after 1965 – and this only made him more famous
- Salinger passed away in 2010
Holden Caulfield

- Protagonist and narrator
- Holden is 16 years old and has just been expelled from Pencey Prep (he failed out)
- He is intelligent and sensitive, but he seems cynical and jaded – this is a defense mechanism for him
- Holden struggles to make the leap from childhood to adulthood
Phoebe Caulfield

- Holden’s 10 year old sister
- Holden feels she listens to him and understands him more than other people
- Her childish innocence is one of Holden’s consistent sources of happiness
Mr. Antolini

- Holden’s English teacher from Elkton Hills School (currently teaching at NYU)
- Young, clever, sympathetic, and likeable – Holden respects him and looks to him for guidance
- Heavy drinker
Ackley

- Holden’s neighbor in his Pencey Prep dorm
- Pimply and with poor dental hygiene – Ackley is very insecure
- He often barges into Holden’s room and is oblivious to Holden’s hints for him to leave
Stradlater

- Holden’s roommate at Pencey Prep
- Handsome, self-satisfied, and popular
Jane Gallagher

- A girl Holden spent a lot of time with one summer in Maine.
- She never appears in the novel, but she is very important to Holden because he both respects her and finds her attractive.
Allie Caulfield

- Holden’s younger brother
- He dies of leukemia before the start of the book
- His death plagues Holden, and he carries around a baseball glove the Allie used to write poems on
D.B. Caulfield

- Holden’s older brother
- Wrote a volume of short stories, which Holden admires
- Holden also feels that D.B. prostitutes his talent by writing movies for Hollywood
Sally Hayes

- An attractive girl Holden has known and dated for a long time
Mr. Spencer

- Holden’s History teacher at Pencey prep
- Tries, unsuccessfully, to get Holden out of his apathy
Carl Luce

- Student at Columbia
- Holden’s student advisor at Whooton School
Maurice

- Elevator operator at Edmont Hotel
- Gets a prostitute for Holden
Sunny

- Prostitute Maurice hired for Holden
Themes

- Alienation as a form of self-protection
- Painfulness of growing up
- Phoniness of the adult world