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edit descriptions of this character Chapter 1: Salingers first chapter introduces the main character and narrator Holden. The first and second-person narration engages both the psychologist to whom he is speaking as well as the reader. The reader is first struck by the lack of organization which Holden employs to convey his message. The stream-of-consciousness narration seems to have no recognizable pattern; there are many digressions to other subjects making it apparent that Holden himself doesnt know exactly what hell say next. Holden first mentions his brother, D.B., who is a writer in Hollywood. Yet Holden doesnt seem to care for his brothers activities too much, admitting that D.B. is "being a prostitute." Secondly, Holden describes his dissatisfaction with his school, Pencey Prep., where the slogan, "molding boys into splendid, clear-thinking young men," doesnt seem applicable. Holden thinks that too many of the people at Pencey are "phonies"-- a term he uses to describe anyone who exhibits some sort of human frailty. Often these frailties include conceit, apathy, and ignorance. The end of the chapter includes Holdens retreat from the big football game to his dorm room, and a narration of his troubles with the fencing team. The team had to forfeit the match when Holden left all their equipment on the wrong train. Holden is embarrassed by this, but is quick to judge the team, blaming them for the mishap. Later, Holden admits that hes getting kicked out of Pencey Prep. because of his poor grades. This too, seems to cause embarrassment, but again, Holden blames others by saying, "the more expensive a school is, the more crooks it has." Chapter 2: Most of the second chapter is dedicated to Holdens visit with Mr. Spencer. He describes him as always stooped over in class an old, weak teacher. The two converse for a while before Mr. Spencer tells Holden, "Life is a game, boy. Life is a game that one plays according to the rules." Holden nods his head in agreement but inwardly he says its only a game for "hot-shots." Holden cant truly accept what Mr. Spencer is saying because Holden cant accept the rules and has never accepted them. He continually sees hypocrisy in positions of authority and thus cannot accept those persons rules as legitimate. Later in the chapter Holden digresses about his age and whether or not he acts like it. He admits that sometimes he doesnt act his age. This leads the reader to think that Holden, though very tall for his age, is still very immature on the inside. Soon another aspect of Holdens personality is revealed with Mr. Spencer reads him the essay Holden wrote on the final exam which he failed. After writing only a few brief sentences, Holden inscribed a personal message to Mr. Spencer, apologizing for the essay and saying that he wont blame Mr. Spencer if he fails him. This uncovers the truly humanitarian side of Holden. Even though he and Mr. Spencer lie on "opposite sides of the pole," Holden still attempts to console the elderly teacher, telling him its not his teaching that caused him to fail. Its as if Holden is trying to preserve Mr. Spencers self-dignity, an innocence Holden wants to protect. To escape the lecture of his teacher, yet not offend him, Holden lies about having to pick up equipment in the gymnasium. This is also consistent with the above assertion made about Holden. Chapter 3: Holden continues his resentment of authority in chapter three as he describes Mr. Ossenburger, the man after whom his dorm is named. To Holden, Ossenburger is just another phony someone who shows up to football games once and year to make it look as though he actually still cares about the school. He tells about a speech Ossenburger made to all the Pencey Prep. students in which he tells the boys to speak to God as though hes ones best friend. Holden cant comprehend this because its meaning is clouded in his mind: he sees Ossenburger as just bragging that he talks to God this way, which makes Holden more firmly believe that Ossenburger is a phony. As will be shown later, Holden has a hard time accepting established religion. After Holden tells about what kinds of books he likes to read, he introduces Ackley to the reader. Ackley is the Pencey student who lives right next to Holden in the dorm. Holden describes Ackley as a dirty fellow who never brushes his teeth and has terrible pimples all over his face. Like the other people hes encountered, Holden is quick to judge Ackley, saying that hes an annoying guy who he never really likes to be around. Toward the end of the chapter, Stradlater, Holdens roomate, barges into the room and aks to borrow Holdens jacket for a date. Ackley complains about Sradlaters superiority complex, and its obvious that the two strongly dislike each other. Chapter 4: Salingers fourth chapter is mostly set in the mens restroom of the dorm, or "the can," as Holden so eloquently names it. Holden describes Stradlater as a phony moron, a good-looking guy with a nice build but someone who cant carry on an intelligent conversation. Holden resents Stradlater for being so successful without any concern with whats right or wrong. Soon Stradlater begs Holden to write his English composition paper for him. Holden reluctantly agrees, again showing his selfless concern for others. Stradlater also mentions his date with Jane Gallagher, a childhood girlfriend of Holden. Holden quickly remembers all the fun the two of them had together as kids. Distinctly, he recalls how they always used to play checkers and how she would always keep her kings in the back row. To Holden, this detail represents more than simply a childhood memory, but actually an inability to separate his past from his present. The reader cannot determine this yet, however; it takes a few pages for Salinger to show Holdens obsession with the kings. Lastly, chapter four demonstrates Holdens lack of personality. Since he changes his attitude when hes around different people (Ackley to Stradlater), the reader doesnt observe any clear, consistent moral compass. This supports the idea that Holden is not a normal person, but just a sponge of sorts, absorbing everything around him yet being unable to interpret, rationalize or articulate it. Chapter 5: The fifth chapter builds on the tendencies and beliefs of Holden initiated in the previous chapters. The first continuation is the commentary about phonies. Holden again knocks the school he is leaving by saying that the only reason they have steak on Saturday nights is because so many parents visit on Sundays, and when the students mothers ask their sons what they had for dinner the night before they can answer that they had steak. To the reader, this seems to be a pretty superficial explanation, but Holden is adamant about his conviction. The second continuation of previous themes is when Holden, always thinking of others, invites Ackley along to the movies. Although Holden admits that sitting next to him at the movies is "not at all enjoyable," he doesnt say anything, viewing the movie as more of a public service than a fun thing to do with friends. Holden comments on the phoniness of the actors, saying they dont act like real people. He cant imagine why anyone would actually watch a movie for entertainment alone. Again, this delves into Holdens inability to separate reality from fiction. Later, after returning from the movies, Holden decides to write Stradlaters composition. This is where he introduces Allie to the reader. Not being able to think of anything about a house to describe, Holden decides to use his brother Allies baseball mitt. Allie, he says, has died of Leukemia a few years before. Soon he goes into a long narration about what a great brother Allie was, and how he was nice to everyone. He talks about how wonderful Allie was in every aspect of life, and then Holden confesses that he is really the only dumb one in the family. Holden feels guilty that he hasnt lived up to the family standard. Holden thinks that by possessing Allies baseball glove full of love poems, somehow he can recapture some of the love he has missed through the years. aliases Ackley edit descriptions of this character Incoming Fall 2025 students: Register for New to Blue Orientation!Value Best value in TennesseeLowest tuition of Tennessees three largest universitiesMTSU is the number 1 producer of college grads in the greater Nashville area$207M in financial assistance80% of students receive financial aid more than $207M in financial assistanceThe Industrial and Organizational Psychology graduate program is the best in the U.S.Almost $2 billion in recent campus improvements and renovationsHighest Ranked Audio Engineering Program in the U.S.MTSU is affordable, 48% of our students graduate debt freeBigCampus with a small-town feel515 Acres of scenic, park-like campus90% of classes have fewer than 40 studentsMore than 200 undergraduate majors and concentrations in 8 collegesMTSU students, alumni, faculty, and staff have won 48 Grammy Awards since 2001MTSU is the home to the first public Honors College in Tennessee33% First-generation students1/3 of our students are first-generationMTSU has more than two dozen Fulbright scholarsThis flexible program has 3 new concentrations, teaches through real-world projects, and emphasizes soft skills development.Value Best value in TennesseeLowest tuition of Tennessees three largest universitiesMTSU is the number 1 producer of college grads in the greater Nashville area$207M in financial assistance80% of students receive financial aid more than $207M in financial assistanceThe Industrial and Organizational Psychology graduate program is the best in the U.S.Almost $2 billion in recent campus improvements and renovations Highest Ranked Audio Engineering Program in the U.S.MTSU is affordable, 48% of our students graduate debt freeBigCampus with a small-town feel515 Acres of scenic, park-like campus90% of classes have fewer than 40 studentsNearly 200 undergraduate majors and concentrations in 8 collegesMTSU students, alumni, faculty, and staff have won 48 Grammy Awards since 2001MTSU is the home to the first public Honors College in Tennessee33% First-generation students1/3 of our students are first-generationMTSU has more than two dozen Fulbright scholarsThis flexible program has 3 new concentrations, teaches through real-world projects, and emphasizes soft skills development.Middle Tennessee State University has more than 300 graduate and undergraduate majors and concentrations to help our students reach their career goals. Below you will find several of our most popular undergraduate programs spotlighted for your review. College of Behavioral & Health SciencesNurses are the most trusted healthcare professionals today and work in various roles in the healthcare facility and in the community. Their day-to-day activities are generally focused on helping others, improving the health and well-being of others, and saving lives. Nurses have great responsibilities but also find great reward and personal fulfilment in their work.Nurses can make a real difference in someones life and experience a very high level of career satisfaction. The opportunities are boundless.College of Media and EntertainmentWith the nations highest-ranked audio production program, our students experience an environment to learn, develop, create, and thrive across multiple areas of audio. Students are taught by internationally recognized, award-winning faculty in highly equipped studios and labs and are encouraged to take advantage of our internship opportunities.You will develop critical skills to understand sound and use audio principles and techniques in a variety of applications, including recording, journalism, sound design for television and theatre, and radio production and programming.College of Behavioral and Health SciencesStudying psychology helps you master interpersonal communications which often contributes to a more successful career in any field. Psychology reaches into multiple areas of human activity, from the workplace to schools, research hospitals to forensic investigation, as those trained in the field strive to understand and serve human needs.The four primary goals of psychology are to describe, explain, predict, and change behavior. Students develop critical-thinking skills, people skills, and communication skills that they can apply to any field.College of Basic and Applied SciencesComputer Science graduates enter an exciting career field that sees a rapid growth rate and commands high salaries. MTSU graduates are valued by employers such as Google, Microsoft, Meta, HCA, Schneider Electric, Deloitte, and Caterpillar.The professional computer science concentration has earned the ABET accreditation which provides assurance that a college or university program meets the quality standards of the profession for which that program prepares graduates. Students may also choose the Business Application concentration.College of Basic and Applied SciencesThe world needs biologists more than ever as we face new and increasingly important challenges such as increasing population pressures, environmental concerns, food shortages, emerging diseases, and other issues.Biology helps us better understand the characteristics and the impact of external influences, both short-term and long-term, upon the continuing processes of life in our world. You may choose from five different concentrations to fit your specific interests.Studying art encourages self-expression and creativity. Art, as a part of a well-rounded education, can contribute to academic, career, and personal success, and can also build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity. Art majors are exposed to cross-disciplinary projects and collaborations in both traditional and non-traditional materials with the ability to experiment in today's ever-evolving art fields.With a variety of concentrations from which to choose, you can identify the area which is of specific interest to you.Lightning the mascot embraces every opportunity to meet fans and students.We invite you to join the true blue family!Recording Industry students hone their skills on professional equipment in several on-campus studios and labs, including the Chris Young Caf.In the Makerspace in the library, students can collaborate on projects or engage in their personal creative pursuits.MTSU celebrates graduates in Commencement ceremonies in Murphy Center three times a year.Dance students showcase their skills in dance concerts each fall and spring.The True Blue Bridge connects the Student Services and Admissions Canter to the Student Union Building.With 17 Division I sports teams, MTSUs athletics offer fun and excitement for everyoneThe MTSU blue horse shoe is a favorite spot for photos and meeting up with friends.With more than 20,000 students, MTSU is a large campus but maintains a small-town feel.Its always a good time to meet up at the Student Union, home to the bookstore, dining, a game room, a theater, and more.Billboard ranks MTSUs recording industry program among the nations top music business schools.Aerospace students spend hours in the skies over MTSU and beyond, flying planes from the programs 44-craft fleet.Womens and mens basketball teams play in Murphy Center, a historic arena thats hosted Elvis Presley, Tina Turner, U2, and many others.We invite you to join the true blue family!The MTSU blue horse shoe is a favorite spot for photos and meeting up with friends.Lightning the mascot embraces every opportunity to meet fans and students.Its always a good time to meet up at the Student Union, home to the bookstore, dining, a game room, a theater, and more. From the acclaimed academic programs and state-of-the-art facilities to MTSU campus life and our thriving Blue Raider athletic programs, there are thousands of reasons Middle Tennessee State University might be the perfect college choice for you. edit descriptions of this character For Winners and Longlists, see: National Book Awards are a set of annual U.S. literary awards. At the finaFor Winners and Longlists, see: National Book Awards are a set of annual U.S. literary awards. At the final "National Book Awards Ceremony" every November, the National Book Foundation presents the NBAs and two lifetime achievement awards to people.The National Book Awards were established in 1936 by the American Booksellers Association, abandoned during World War II, and re-established by three book industry organizations in 1950. Non-U.S. authors and publishers were eligible for the pre-war awards. Now they are presented to U.S. authors for books published in the United States roughly during the award year.The nonprofit National Book Foundation was established in 1988 to administer and enhance the Book Awards and "move beyond [them] into the fields of education and literacy", primarily by sponsoring public appearances by writers. Its mission is "to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America."Site: www.nationalbook.org info_outline working on a study question? get help from verified tutors now! Holden Caulfield is a 16 year old boy who attends Pencey Prep. School. He has just been expelled from the school. Earlier that day, he forgot the foils in the subway on the way to a fencing meet. Holden stands on top of a hill watching a football game then runs to his teacher's house.Chapter 2: Mrs. Spencer greets him at the door and shows him where Mr. Spencer is. Mr. Spencer tries to give Holden a life lesson but Holden ignores him. He tries to make him feel bad about failing by making him read his history essay out loud. Mr. Spencer asks Holden about his future then Holden makes an excuse to leave his house.Chapter3: Holden returns to his room and puts on his new red hunting hat. He starts to read a book but is interrupted by his next door neighbor, Ackley, who barges into his room and starts touching Holden's personal items. He starts asking annoying questions and clips his fingernails on the floor. Stradlater, Holden's roommate, enters the room and Ackley leaves. Stradlater has a date.Chapter4: goes to the bathroom to shave And Holden follows him in. He finds out that Stradlater is going on a date with Jane Gallagher, a girl that Holden knew during his childhood. Stradlater asks Holden to write a composition for him and asks to borrow his hound's-tooth jacket.Chapter5: Holden gets into a snowball fight. He asks Mal Brossard and Ackley if they want to go see a move. They take a bus into Agerstown. They end up going to eat burgers because the guys already saw the movie. When they return, Ackley goes into Holden's room and starts making up stories. Holden kicks him out so he can write the composition. It is supposed to be about a room but Holden writes about his dead brother, Allie's, baseball glove that has poems written on it. Allie died of leukemia a few years ago and broke all the windows in the garage.Chapter 6: Stradlater comes home from his date and is mad at Holden because he did no t write about the right subject. Holden rips it up then starts smoking. He asks him how his date was. He didn't so Holden tried to attack him but he got pinned to the floor. He keeps calling Stradlater a moron so he punches Holden in the face. He gets a bloody nose and goes to Ackley's room.Chapter 7: Holden wakes up Ackley and asks if he can sleep in his roommates' bed. Ackley just goes back to sleep. Holden can't fall asleep so he wakes up Ackley and asks him if he can become a catholic monk. Ackley is tired and needs to wake up early to go to church so he ignores him. Holden goes to get his luggages and his hunting hat and leavesPencey.Chapter 8: Holden walks to the train station. he catches a train to New York. On the way, he meets the mother of a boy that goes to Pencey. He starts making up things about the woman's son. He makes up a fake name and says he is going home early because he needs an operation.Chapter 9: Holden gets off the train and wants to call someone but doesn't. He takes a cab to the Edmont Hotel. He asks the driver about the ducks in central park but the driver doesn't want to talk about them. At the hotel he calls a girl that a guy he knows knew. She can't meet him at the moment so he hangs up.Chapter 10: Holden wants to call his sister but doesn't. She likes writing books. He goes to the night club in the hotel. The waiter won't bring any alcohol even though he is tall and has gray hair. Holden sits at a table with three girls and dances with them. They are not interested in Holden and are looking for movie stars. Holden tells them that he saw one and they run off.Chapter 11: Holden returns to his room and remembers his childhood friend Jane. He remembers her dog that did its business on his lawn and when her stepfather asked her for cigarettes and she refused to give him. Then she started to cry and Holden kissed her. Holden goes down and takes a bother cab.Chapter 12: Holden takes the cab to Ernie's night club. He asks the cab driver about the ducks and he gets mad. He listens to Ernie play the piano and orders a scotch and soda. He meets one of D.B.'s friends and then leaves.Chapter 13: Holden walks back to the hotel. The elevator operator, Maurice, asks him if he wanted a prostitute sent to his room. Holden said yes and a few minutes later the prostitute Sunny came. She tries to seduce Holden but Holden loses interest in her. He pays her the money Maurice told him to pay but she said it wasn't enough. She leaves.Chapter 14: Holden goes to sleep thinking about Allie. There is a knock at the door. It is Maurice. He wants the $5 Holden owes Sunny. Maurice holds Holden while Sunny takes the money from his wallet. Maurice punches him in the stomach and leaves. Holden imagines he's in a movie and he gets revenge on Maurice. Holden gets into bed and goes to sleep.Chapter 15: Holden calls a girl named Sally Hayes and asks her if she wanted to go see a movie with her. She accepts. Holden goes to Grand Central Station and leaves his bags there. He goes to eat lunch and meets a couple of nuns who are going to a school to work as teachers. He gives them $10 for charity.Chapter 16: Holden goes to buy a record for his sister Phoebe called "Little Shirley Beans.". He gets tickets for a play which stars the Lunts. He sees a kid singing, "If a body catch a body coming through the rye.". He gets the courage to call Jane but her mom answers so he hangs up. He goes to the park to see if Phoebe is there so he could give her the record. He meets a girl that says she is at the Museum of Natural History. Then she remembers it was the day before but Holden still goes. He notices that every time he goes to the museum, he changes but it doesn't.Chapter 17: Holden goes to meet Sally but she is late like always. During the show Holden is mad at the actors and calls them phonies because they seem to be too good at what they do. During the intermission Sally goes to talk to a guy from another prep. school. They go ice skating at Radio City. They go inside to eat and Holden goes crazy. He s reams then whispers and talks about phony people. He then asks her if she wants to run away with him but she refuses. He gets angry and calls her a royal pain in the ass. They cries and leaves.Chapter 18: Holden goes to a drugstore to get some food. He calls Jane but no one answers. He calls an old friend from Whooton Prep. School named Carl Luce. They agree to go get drinks that night. Holden watches a stage show and a movie before going to the Wicker Bar.Chapter 19: Carl Luce is very smart and goes to Columbia University. Luce used to give the younger students sex talks and Holden starts talking to him about sex. Luce is annoyed that Holden still talks about that stuff. Luce says that Holden should see a psychoanalysts, like his father. Holden asks him if he was psychoanalyzed by his father but he avoids the question. Luce says he has a date and leaves.Chapter 20: Holden gets really drunk and goes to the bathroom to wash his face. Holden calls Sally and disturbs her grandmother. Then he tries to get a date with a singer at the bar but gets rejected. Finally he tries to get a date with the hat-check girl. Holden walks to the duck pond in Central Park. On the way there he drops the record and it breaks. He gathers the pieces in his pocket. The water in his hair starts to freeze. He's afraid he'll get pneumonia so he decides to walk home. His parents should be asleep and he needed some cash.Chapter 21: The regular elevator operator is gone so Holden tricked the new guy into thinking he was going to someone else's apartment. Holden sneaks in and looks in his sister's room but she isn't there. He checks his brother D.B.'s room and there she is. He reads through her notebooks and then she wakes up. She is really happy to see him and starts talking about a play she's in and about movies and school. Then she realizes Holden's home early. Holden tells her he was let out early but Phoebe knows he was expelled. Phoebe hides her head in her pillow and says daddy's going to kill you.Chapter 22: Phoebe finally listens to him and he tells her why he failed his courses and about the phonies. Phoebe asks Holden what he likes but Holden can't think of anything. She then asks him what he wants to do in the future. He remembers the song the boy was singing,"If a body catch a body coming through the rye.". He says he wants to be in a rye field full of kids on the edge of a cliff. He wants to stop them from falling. Phoebe says that it's,"If a body meet a body coming through the rye."Chapter 23: Holden calls his old English teacher: Mr. Antolini, tells him he got kicked out and asks him if he can come over. He says yes. Holden goes to Phoebes and asks her to dance. While they're dancing, the front door opens. Their parents come in and Holden hides in the closet. His mom comes to D.B.'s room and tells Phoebe to go back to bed. When she leaves Holden tells Phoebe that he plans to move west. Phoebe gives him her Christmas money and Holden gives her red hunting hat and then he leaves for Mr. Antolini's.Chapter 24: When Holden goes in the apartment, he can tell the Antolini's just had a party. Holden tells Mr. Antolini what he hated about about Pencey. He hated the digressions during the debate class and that getting off topic was interesting. Mr. Antolini challenges Holden and shows him it is better to stay on track. Mrs. Antolini offers them some coffee them goes to bed. Mr. Antolini says that Holden is going to have a fall. A fall that men who cannot cope with their surroundings have. He tells Holden he should try harder in school. They prepare the sofa and they go to bed. Holden wakes up because Mr. Antolini is stroking his head. Holden thinks he's a pervert and leaves.Chapter 25: Holden sleeps in the waiting room in Grand Central Station. He walks around New York and every time he steps of the sidewalk he asks Allie to let him get to the other side. He decides he's hitch hiking his way west so he goes to Phoebe's school and writes her a letter telling her to meet him at a Museum so he could give her back her money before he left. Chapter 26: Holden doesn't want to say what happened during the remainder of that day but says he got sick. He has a psychoanalyst and is supposed to go to a new school. He says he's going to try this time. D.B. comes to see him. He misses everyone from the story he just told.Written by , published on January 1, 2009 last updated on July 5, 2024 Published in 1951, The Catcher in the Rye, J. D. Salingers Bildungsroman about sixteen-year-old Holden Caulfield, is one of the most controversial novels in recent U.S. history. Since the early 1960s, disputes over Catcher in the Rye have arisen in more than seventy communities across the United States.School boards have restricted the novel for its profanity and contentIn some instances, school boards banned the novel, while others removed it from school reading lists or restricted it, requiring students to obtain parental permission to read it. In Harris v. Mechanicville Central School District (N.Y. 1978), a high school English teacher was dismissed for insubordination when he refused to drop the book from his curriculum.School boards and parent-teacher associations have been hostile toward the novel because of Holdens profanity-laden speech and his sexual adventures following his expulsion from prep school. These include an episode with a pimp and a prostitute (with whom Holden does not have sex) and a visit to an old teacher, Mr. Antolini, who gets drunk and makes what Holden interprets as a sexual advance. In recent years, the novel has also been blamed for promoting alienation among students responsible for high-school shootings. Nevertheless, Catcher in the Rye is widely regarded as one of the most important contributions to American literature since the end of World War II.This article was originally published in 2009. Simon Stern is Professor of Law and English at the University of Toronto. He has published articles and book chapters on obscenity, copyright, criminal procedure, legal fictions, and the history of the common law.Send Feedback on this article edit descriptions of this character The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger has grown into an American literary classic due to its themes of alienation and angst, with which adolescents, young adults, and adults alike all are able to identify.The novel is narrated by the main character, Holden Caulfield, who is undergoing mental treatment in a hospital. Holden is 16 years old and is narrating the events that took place after he receives notice that he will be expelled from his school.Feeling frustrated with his classmates and teachers, Holden decides to return home to Manhattan a few days early but not tell his parents. He checks into a hotel and interacts with several people, both new acquaintances and people from his past, growing increasingly annoyed and frustrated until his angst is too much to bear. Literary Elements of Catcher in the RyeAuthor: J. D. Salinger Type of Work: Fiction/NovelGenres: Bildungsroman (coming of age), satire, realismPublished Date: Published in serial form 1945-1946; published as a novel in 1951Setting: Timelate 1940s or early 1950s; PlacePencey Prep School, New York City (Manhattan), unspecified medical facilityMain Characters: Holden Caulfield main character and narrator; Phoebe Caulfield Holdens little sister Protagonist/Antagonist: Holden Caulfield can be considered both the protagonist as well as the antagonist. Society can be considered an additional antagonist.Major Thematic Elements: Growing pains, alienation, superficiality of society, idealization of individualityMotifs: Intimacy, loneliness, lying/phoninessExposition: Holden has been expelled from Pencey Prep, he feels everyone around him are all phonies, and he decides to go back to New York 3 days early and needs to find a way to kill some time before going back home.Plot: The rise and fall of the novels action revolves around Holden searching for a genuine connection. He explores this through fights, considering sexual encounters, grand proposals, and meeting with people from his past. The major conflict that propels the plot forward is Holdens wrestling with his inner psyche in a search for refuge from the harsh realities of the adult world.Major Symbols: Holdens red hat, the Central Park lagoon, the displays in the Museum of Natural History, the song Comin Thro the RyeClimax: Holden sneaks into his parents home to talk with his little sister Phoebe, who becomes angry when she finds out he has been expelled from school. Literary Significance of Catcher in the RyeThe Catcher in the Rye is an uncomfortably illuminated look at the pains associated with growing up and leaving behind the innocence and comfort of childhood. The novel shows a young mans deeply troubled journey trying to find meaningful connections with other people, who he views as phony and unoriginal. The Catcher in the Rye saw great literary success because the novel was able to appeal to readers on an emotional level that was unprecedented. With counterculture movements growing in the 1950s and 1960s, the themes of alienation and rebellion against a cold and uncaring society took root in many young peoples hearts and minds.The novel was greatly controversial and ended up on countless banned books lists. Although the book was originally intended for adult audiences by author J. D. Salinger, many young people struggling to comprehend political and social unrest throughout the decades felt a deep connection to the main character of Holden Caulfield and empathized with the pressures he faced. This allowed Holden to become a symbol of purity and originality in stark contrast with a dark and increasingly frustrating world.It is likely that The Catcher in the Rye will continue to see success as more of the recently deceased authors writing is posthumously published, giving it broader literary context. It is worth noting that many social movements these days reject the perspectives of Holden Caulfield, however, having a dislike for the individualistic attitude that Caulfield accidentally represents and favoring instead movements rooted in collective consciousness.Although at times The Catcher in the Rye has been banned from being taught in schools due to elements of homosexuality and sexual encounters, it is currently a widely taught book due to its undeniable social reach. Being a product of World War II America, many of its themes, dark as they tend to be, touch on timeless issues that will never be something with which people are unable to identify. Included in the American literary canon, The Catcher in the Rye provides emotional context but also gives a realistic and historical look at post-war America. Catcher in the Rye Book SummaryThe novel begins as the main character, Holden Caulfield, explains that he has become ill and is in an unspecified medical setting (largely assumed to be a psychiatric facility). He declines to mention much about his life except that he will tell the audience about the events that unfolded right before his school, Pencey Prep, was due to break for the Christmas holiday.In the form of a flashback, Holden informs the audience that he is failing four out of five of his classes and has been notified that he will be expelled from Pencey Prep. Holden decides to visit his former history teacher. He arrives and is greeted with familiarity but leaves in irritation as his teacher, Mr. Spencer, tries to make him understand the importance of his future.Holden returns to his dorm room and later learns that his roommate has gone on a date with his childhood friend, Jane Gallagher. When his roommate, Stradlater, returns, Holden demands details about the date and winds up being punched in the nose by Stradlater for being aggressive. During this series of events, Holden reflects about his younger brother, Allie, who died three years earlier of leukemia. It is apparent that Holden has lingering trauma from this experience.At this point, Holden has decided to leave Pencey Prep and returns home to New York City three days early. Once Holden arrives in New York, he gets a cab to the Edmont Hotel where he plans to stay in the following days. He tries to ask the cab driver where the ducks in the Central Park lagoon go for the winter, but the cab driver becomes annoyed by his question.Once at the hotel, Holden reflects about his little sister, Phoebe, who he loves dearly even though he finds her to be overly emotional. He takes a cab to a bar he used to frequent with his older brother and tries to ask the cab driver about the ducks in the Central Park lagoon. The driver becomes unexpectedly angry at the question. At the bar, Holden becomes depressed and leaves.Holden walks the long walk back to his hotel. Once there, the elevator operator offers to send Holden a sex worker for 5 dollars. He accepts but feels cowardly and depressed. When she arrives, he makes a lie that he is recovering from a medical procedure and cant have sex. He pays her five dollars even though she says he owes her ten. She returns later with the elevator operator who punches him in the stomach while Sunny steals an extra five dollars out of Holdens wallet. Before going to bed, Holden imagines a version of these events in which he gets revenge for the way the two treated him.The next morning, Holden checks out of the hotel and makes a date for later that night. Later on, he meets his date, Sally Hayes, who he finds attractive and well-read, but annoying. Later during the date, Holden begins to unravel and rants about the phonies at his school, talking about how alienated he feels. He asks Sally to run away with him and she declines. Holden calls Sally a royal pain in the ass and she begins to cry. He leaves without her.Holden invites an older boy, Luce, who he knows from school, to have a chat. Holden asks him questions about sex. Luce becomes annoyed and tells Holden he needs therapist. Holden thinks Luce is a phony. He leaves and gets very drunk, trying desperately to find someone to make a date with, but he fails. He goes to Central Park to see if the ducks are still around.Holden starts to miss Phoebe again and goes home so he can talk to her. When Phoebe learns that he has been expelled from school, she is angry with him. She asks him why he hates everything and what he plans to do with his life. He says hed like to be the catcher in the rye. Phoebe tells him he is remembering the song lyrics wrong, but this discussion reveals Holdens deep desire to rescue others from the pains of leaving behind childhood. Holden tells Phoebe he is leaving, and she gives him her Christmas money. He leaves his red hunting hat with her.Holden decides to meet with an old English teach of his, Mr. Antolini. While there, Mr. Antolini challenges Holdens ideas which makes Holden uncomfortable. Eventually, he falls asleep and awakens to Mr. Antolini caressing his forehead. In astonishment and discomfort, he leaves and spends the night on a bench in Central Station.Holden leaves a note at Phoebes school for her to meet him. They go to the zoo, but Phoebe is mad at him for trying to move away without her. He watches her on the carousel, wearing his red hunting hat, and feels so happy watching her experience that moment that he feels he will cry.Holden brings the readers back to present by refusing to divulge any further information. He says he got sick after his day with Phoebe and has been getting treatment. He is hopeful about the upcoming school term but doesnt want to talk about it with his audience and concludes by saying he will try and apply himself more this year. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Read Awards presented by Indigo. Read Awards presented by Indigo. ...more Along for the Ride by 4.03 avg rating 210,609 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Read (2010) Wanted (Pretty Little Liars, #8) by 4.09 avg rating 47,222 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Series (2010) The Van Alen Legacy (Blue Bloods, #4) by 3.95 avg rating 67,164 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Series (2010) Burned (House of Night, #7) by 3.97 avg rating 163,023 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Series (2010) Spirit Bound (Vampire Academy, #5) by 4.32 avg rating 304,011 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Series (2010) Twilight (The Twilight Saga, #1) by 3.67 avg rating 7,067,509 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best All-Time-Fave (2010) The Catcher in the Rye by 3.80 avg rating 3,769,916 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best All-Time-Fave (2010) Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (Harry Potter, #7) by 4.62 avg rating 3,978,185 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best All-Time-Fave (2010) The Book Thief by 4.39 avg rating 2,776,314 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best All-Time-Fave (2010) The Reckoning (Darkest Powers, #3) by 4.18 avg rating 118,310 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Read (2010) Shiver (The Wolves of Mercy Falls, #1) by 3.76 avg rating 492,190 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Read (2010) Shadowland (The Immortals, #3) by 3.66 avg rating 85,713 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Read (2010) Catching Fire (The Hunger Games, #2) by 4.35 avg rating 3,949,161 ratings Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Read (2010) Learn English for FreeFor Students, Teachers, and Authors From the very beginning of Holdens story, it becomes clear that he feels distanced from his peers. While everyone at Pencey is at the schools big football game, he stands atop a nearby hill, a situation that emphasizes that he exists at a remove from the people in his life. This is a self-enforced brand of isolation, since Holden doesnt want to be at the game, which he associates with phony slob[s] like Dr. Thurmer. In this moment, then, his hyper-critical outlook comes to the forefront of the novel. The only thing that might convince him to join his peers, it seems, would be if there were girls in attendance, suggesting that the possibility of having a romantic encounter is perhaps one of the only things that might motivate him to overcome his distaste for phony camaraderie.Jump to ratings and reviewsIt's Christmas time and Holden Caulfield has just been expelled from yet another school...Fleeing the crooks at Pencey Prep, he pinballs around New York City seeking solace in fleeting encountersshooting the bull with strangers in dive hotels, wandering alone round Central Park, getting beaten up by pimps and cut down by erstwhile girlfriends. The city is beautiful and terrible, in all its neon loneliness and seedy glamour, its mingled sense of possibility and emptiness. Holden passes through it like a ghost, thinking always of his kid sister Phoebe, the only person who really understands him, and his determination to escape the phonies and find a life of true meaning.The Catcher in the Rye is an all-time classic in coming-of-age literature- an elegy to teenage alienation, capturing the deeply human need for connection and the bewildering sense of loss as we leave childhood behind. J.D. Salinger's (19192010) classic novel of teenage angst and rebellion was first published in 1951. The novel was included on Time's 2005 list of the 100 best English-language novels written since 1923. It was named by Modern Library and its readers as one of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. It has been frequently challenged in the court for its liberal use of profanity and portrayal of sexuality and in the 1950's and 60's it was the novel that every teenage boy wants to read.GenresClassicsFictionYoung AdultLiteratureSchoolComing Of AgeNovels 44058 people are currently reading97670 people want to readWorks, most notably novel The Catcher in the Rye (1951), of American writer Jerome David Salinger often concern troubled, sensitive adolescents. People well know this author for his reclusive nature. He published his last original work in 1965 and gave his last interview in 1980. Reared in city of New York, Salinger began short stories in secondary school and published several stories in the early 1940s before serving in World War II. In 1948, he published the critically acclaimed story "A Perfect Day for Bananafish" in The New Yorker, his subsequent home magazine. He released an immediate popular success. His depiction of adolescent alienation and loss of innocence in the protagonist Holden Caulfield especially influenced adolescent readers. Widely read and controversial, sells a quarter-million copies a year.The success led to public attention and scrutiny: reclusive, he published new work less frequently. He followed with a short story collection, Nine Stories (1953), of a novella and a short story, Franny and Zooey (1961), and a collection of two novellas, Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction (1963). His last published work, a novella entitled "Hapworth 16, 1924", appeared in The New Yorker on June 19, 1965.Afterward, Salinger struggled with unwanted attention, including a legal battle in the 1980s with biographer Ian Hamilton. In the late 1990s, Joyce Maynard, a close ex-lover, and Margaret Salinger, his daughter, wrote and released his memoirs. In 1996, a small publisher announced a deal with Salinger to publish "Hapworth 16, 1924" in book form, but the ensuing publicity indefinitely delayed the release. Another writer used one of his characters, resulting in copyright infringement; he filed a lawsuit against this writer and afterward made headlines around the globe in June 2009. Salinger died of natural causes at his home in Cornish, New Hampshire. Displaying 1 - 30 of 95,982 reviewsMarch 14, 2016journal entrytoday i am 15 years old. everything is all bullshit, as usual. i can't believe how fucked everything is around me. like i'm surrounded by zombies. i can't talk to any of my so-called friends, i can't talk to jamie, i can't talk to my parents. who would bother listening anyway. i cannot wait to leave orange county! this place makes me fucking sick. everyone is a hypocrite. everything is so goddamn bright and shiny and sunny and meaningless. FUCK, life is so full of crap.there is one good thing in my life though. just read this book Catcher in the Rye. blown away! i don't know how a book written decades ago could say exactly what i would say. it is like the author was reading my thoughts and put it all down in this book. things i didn't even realize i felt were right there on the page! I LOVED IT. i think this is my favorite novel of all time. which is not saying a whole lot because there is a ton of pretentious bullshit out there and i bet mrs. durham will force us to read it all. man i hate that bitch.journal entrytoday i am 20 years old. life is great as usual. just enjoyed my wednesday morning wake-and-bake session with j-p, the sun is shining, the san diego weather is beautiful, and tonight i'm off to rob & gregg's to destroy them at bullshit. love that game! gregg says that joelle will be there (yes!) but she'll probably bring that prick pete with her. one of these days i'm going to lose it and kick his ass. "i'm in a band"...fuck you, pete! i will never spin your records.all i have on the agenda today is to go to the gym and then off to keracik's american lit class. it is not a bad class, although it is nowhere close to gender studies with halberstam. or davidoff's survey of modern postmodernism last semester. now that was a class! it blew my mind. so many things to think about. the reading in american lit has been okay. but we've been assigned to read Catcher in the Rye and it is terrible. can't believe i ever liked this book. caulfield is a whiny little bitch. the book has no depth. there is literally nothing going on with the narrative, style, theme, characterization, it is just one rote clich after another. he thinks he is such a rebel-without-a-cause but in reality he is just another tired representation of rootless, stereotypical masculinity and gender essentialism. completely inane and without meaning. i think my essay will use some acker-style postmodernist techniques to show how simplistic this trite "classic" truly is. i'm going to deconstruct the shit out of this novel, baby!journal entrytoday i am 25 years old. another gray, drizzly san francisco morning. i wish christopher would wake up, i really need to talk to him after all that shit last night. notes on my pillow, really?? time to grow up dude, i will never "complete you". well actually i'm glad he's still asleep, my throat is too sore to get into it right now with him. plus Food Not Bombs is happening this morning and i have to get the kitchen ready. john is probably hard at work already, typical over-achieving behavior. i bet the wisconsin kids are still crashing on our living room floor. it's time for them to leave! they've seen The Vindictives at every single Epicenter or Gilman show now and it is time for them to hit the road. or learn to take a shower. this apartment is not the world's crashpad!i woke up early this morning and thumbed through A Catcher in the Rye. i remember hating this book in college for some reason. probably wasn't po-mo enough for me. or "challenging". feh. what a pretentious idiot i was. this is a beautiful book. it changed my life as a kid, i'm not sure how i would have survived orange county without it. just re-reading parts of it brought back all that old angst about all the fucked-up shit in the world that kids have to deal with. i'm not sure there is another book as insightful or as meaningful. or funny! that part with the clipping-of-the-toenails is hilarious. ackley is such a douche. this book is the foundation of every zine that i have ever loved. a perfect novel. it is so...."human", i guess.journal entrytoday i am 30 years old. man my head hurts...so hungover! my birthday party last night was awesome. even got to spend some time on the turntables (thanks kraddy for actually relinquishing a tiny bit of control for once). i must have made out with a half-dozen people. sadly, no real action. i think last night's party will be the last big party i will ever throw. things have got to change. no more partying like the world is about to end, i still have my entire life ahead of me! tomorrow i am going to go into AIG and hand in my notice. i am not an entertainment insurance underwriter, that is not me. fuck them. if erika can get me that job working with homeless kids at Hospitality House, than i am set. although moving from the biggest room in the flat to the water heater closet will be no fun. i'm 30 years old now for chrissakes! still, i've got to do something meaningful with my life. it cannot all be about booze, drugs, hooking up, and paying everyone's rent when they're broke. things have got to change.i cracked open A Catcher in the Rye yesterday before the party and read some of my favorite parts. what an inspiration! seriously, that is a classic novel. it is packed with meaning. i'm twice caulfield's age but i still somehow connect with him in a very direct way. my life is going to change and the attitude expressed in that book is at the heart of that change. i love you, holden caulfied. it's not too late for me to learn from you, to find some meaning in life.journal entrytoday i am 35 years old. another intense, sad, but deeply fulfilling week has passed. every day something meaningful happens, something so emotional and real. sometimes i find myself just losing it in a fetal position because of the things i've seen. working with people who are drug addicted or who have been abused or who are dying is HEAVY. but it is also beautiful. it's hard to believe i am dealing with all of that and supporting my folks too. thank God i have good friends to talk to about these things. anyway. so now marcy wants to have a kid. i just don't know how i feel about that. this is such a fucked up world, do we really want to bring new life into it? i dunno. it seems....selfish, somehow. she should just quit her job with the d.a.'s office and get back to her roots in the public defender's office instead. does she think that having a child with me will bring more meaning into her life? my life has meaning enough already. and i really am not sure i can handle that responsibility on top of everything else.i skimmed A Catcher in the Rye yesterday, after an awkward talk with marcy about having a baby. it was not an inspiring read. caulfield is so full of misplaced angst! i'm not sure i even understand him anymore. why is he so pissed off? he's seen nothing of the world and what the world can actually do to people. i want to like him, i want to re-capture that feeling of affection i had for him, but now his contempt and his anger just seem so meaningless, so naive. he really does not have it so bad. there is so much worse out there. i don't know how i would handle a kid like that. i hate to say it, but i constantly rolled my eyes when reading it. oh the emotional self-absorption of youth! just you wait, caulfield. it sure gets a hell of a lot more complicated once you grow up.journal entrytoday i am 40 years old. when did i become a boss? it is like i woke up one day, mysteriously transformed into an old man. am i really a "leader"? what does that even mean? sometimes i feel like i am just faking it all and someone is going to figure it out and blow the whistle on me. last week i made a huge play on the Council, i had all my ducks in a row, and all the votes came in just as i had planned. everyone has their own agenda and the way to get things done is simply to recognize and engage with that disappointing fact. some folks got up and started clapping and then the whole room joined in, even council members who voted against my motion - feh, phonies. the experience was sort of amazing but it also made me feel very odd, almost disconnected from myself. is this who i am now, a public policy figure, a community advocate, a mayoral appointee? ugh, i can't stand the mayor. i don't feel like me. there is accomplishment there, and some satisfaction... but i am missing something, something visceral, something real. sweet Jesus, is this what a mid-life crisis feels like? it is a weird feeling, like i know everything that i need to know about the world, about the people around me, how everything connects, but yet i still feel like i know so little about life. oh, such angst, mark. surely you've outgrown this?i've started re-reading A Catcher in the Rye. it's so strange, during different parts, i felt like crying. a wonderful and moving novel. i feel like i really understand holden, like he is my guide, my son, my brother, my friend... myself. i think of him and i know that change in the world and changing myself can still happen. it just has to happen. that's life after all, right?alpha-team come-of-age first-loves April 3, 20115.0 stars. I LOVE IT when I go into a book with low expectations and it ends up knocking me on my ass. Admittedly, this is tougher to do with "classics" but it certainly happened in this case. I remember first reading this in school (like many of us) and not thinking it was anything special. However, having first read it almost 25 years ago, I knew I had to read it again before I could feel justified in actually reviewing it. Of course, I didnt hold out much hope that my feelings would change and was expecting a fairly painful reading experiece. In fact, as I started reading, I was already thinking about what my amazingly insightful, completely isnt it cool to bash on the classics 1 star review was going to focus on. I thought maybe I could bag on the less than spectacular prose used by Salinger (making myself feel really smart in the process). Or maybe I could take some jabs at the less than exciting narrative pacing (and throw in a few references to "watching paint dry"). In the end, I thought my most likely avenue for attacking reviewing this anthem of teen angst was that it was utterly yawn inspiringno longer relevant today because of the GLUT of teen angst that the recent generations have been exposed to ad nauseam growing up. I mean we live in a time in which teen angst is EVERYWHERE and even has its own sub-genre label now. You can find it in:MUSIC......... ...MOVIES........ ...AND EVEN THE SHITTY POPULAR LITERATURE*** OF OUR TIMES... *** Literature is a serious stretch, but I must admit that these books do IN FACT fill me with ANGST!!!...So what happened to all of the preconceived notions I had before I starting reading this book? Instead, I found myself completely drawn into the rich, nuanced story of Holden Caulfield. I found myself empathizing with Caulfield almost from the beginning (something I did not expect to do). His "annoying", "pseudo rebellious" and "just don't care" exterior were so obviously manufactured and so patently hiding a seriously sad and lost boy that I was transfixed on finding the real Holden Caulfield. Despite the book being written "in Holden's own words" the reader was still able to discern that Holden's surface response to a situation was hiding a much deeper, emotional resposne. For Salinger to be able to infuse that kind of nuance into the sparse prose of Caulfields narrative was nothing short of brilliant in my opinion. Caulfied is lazy. He is stubborn. He is immature. He is unfocused. He is untruthful. He is dangerously short-sighted and he is lost in his own world or unrealistic expectations. Sounds like that could certainly be a not unsubstantial portion of the male 16 year old population. However, after reading this book, I learned a few other things about Holden that I though were fascinating and that are not as often discussed:1.He is desperately lonely (he even goes so far as ask his cab drivers to join him for a drink);2.He is generous with his time and his things (he writes an essay for his roommate despite being upset with him and even lets him borrow his jacket); 3.He is extremely sensitive and longs for an emotional (rather than just a physical) commitment (he mentions several times his need to be in love in order to be physical and his experience with the prostitute certainly bears this out);4.He is intelligent (despite being lazy and unfocused, Holden displays great insight and intelligence regarding books he has read and displays at the museum); and 5.Despite being unable to process it correctly, he is full of compassion and has a deep capacity for love, which he shows most notably for his sister (this was one of the most powerful parts of the story for me as it was Holdens desire to avoid hurting Phoebe that keeps him from running away at the end of the book). Taking all of the good and the bad together, I was left with the feeling that Holden is an adolescent on the cusp of adulthood who is achingly afraid of the loss of his childhood and the responsibility and commitment that he sees as required to make it in the adult world. He is compassionate, intelligent and deeply emotional and yet is unable (or unwilling) to focus that energy on those steps that he sees as leading him away from his happy memories of childhood and closer to the scary world of the adult. I think this is superbly shown in Holden's expressed dream of wanting to being the Catcher in the Rye. Quick side note: I had no idea what the title to the book referred to until I just read the book. Here is a person so afraid of growing up and so averse to giving into the pain and sadness that he sees as the result of becoming an adult that he wants nothing more than to spend his life protecting others from losing the innocence of childhood. Big, crazy, I want to save the world dreams are a wonderful part of childhood and it is a shame that such ideas and beliefs are too often destroyed under the barrage of you really need to grow up rather than having such dreams transitioned and re-focused into daring the improbable within the world of the possible. A great and moving reading experience and one that I give my HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION!! 1930-1953 children-behaving-badly classics March 26, 2008I read the end of The Catcher in the Rye the other day and found myself wanting to take Holden Caulfield by the collar and shake him really, really hard and shout at him to grow up. I suppose I've understood for some time now that The Catcher in the Rye -- a favorite of mine when I was sixteen -- was a favorite precisely because I was sixteen. At sixteen, I found Holden Caulfield's crisis profoundly moving; I admired his searing indictment of society, his acute understanding of human nature, his extraordinary sensitivity (I mean, come on, he had a nervous breakdown for God's sake, he had to be sensitive). At sixteen, I wanted to marry Holden Caulfield. At forty, I want to spank him. After all, Holden's indictment of society boils down to the "insight" that everybody is a phony. That's the kind of insight a sixteen year old considers deep. A forty year old of the grown-up variety recognizes Holden's insight as superficial and banal, indulging in the cheapest kind of adolescent posturing. It suggests a grasp of society and of human nature that's about as complex as an episode of Dawson's Creek. Holden and his adolescent peers typically behave as though the fate they have suffered (disillusionment and the end of innocence) is unique in human history. He can't see beyond the spectacle of his own disillusionment (and neither can J. D. Salinger); for all his painful self-consciousness, Holden Caulfield is not really self-aware. He can't see that he himself is a phony. Compare Salinger's novel of arrested development, for instance, with a real bildungsroman, Great Expectations. Holden Caulfield is an adolescent reflecting on childhood and adolescence; Pip Pirrip is an adult reflecting on childhood and adolescence. Holden Caulfield has the tunnel vision of teendom, and he depicts events with an immediacy and absorption in the experience that blocks out the broader context, the larger view. Pip Pirrip has the wonderful double vision of a sensitive adult recollecting the sensitive child he used to be; he conveys at the same time the child's compelling perspective and the adult's thoughtful revision of events. While Holden Caulfield litters his narrative with indignant exposes of phonies and frauds, Pip Pirrip skillfully concentrates on "the spurious coin of his own make" -- that is, without letting the child Pip and the adolescent Pip in on the joke, he exposes himself as a phony. Pip Pirrip grows up. Holden Caulfield has a nervous breakdown. I suppose the only reason I begrudge him his breakdown is that so many in our culture -- many more, unfortunately, than just the legitimate adolescents among us -- seem fixated on Holden as a symbol of honesty and socially-liberating rebellion. We view nervous collapse and dysfunction as a badge of honor, a sign -- to put it in Caulfieldian terms -- that we are discerning enough to see through all the crap. Our celebration of overwrought disaffection reminds me of the last sentence of Joyces Araby: Gazing up into the darkness I saw myself as a creature driven and derided by vanity; and my eyes burned with anguish and anger. Here is the adolescent pose non-pareil. Equally self-accusing and self-aggrandizing, it captures the adolescent at the precise moment when his own disillusionment becomes the object of his grandiose and self-dramatizing vision. Thats the kind of crap that Holden Caulfield (and J. D. Salinger) cannot see through. And it is often the kind of crap that we adults like to slosh around in. The Barney beating of several years ago is another symptom of our arrested adolescence, our inability to ride the wave of disillusion into the relatively calm harbor of adulthood -- as though flailing around in the storm and raging at the wind were in themselves marks of distinction and a superior sensibility. I remember a news story about a woman in a Barney costume being seriously injured when a rabid (and probably drunken) anti-Barney fanatic attacked the big purple dinosaur at some public event. Now, I dont know the age of the Barney-beater, but the act itself is a supremely adolescent one, in which the impulsive response to disillusionment is to lash out at those symbols of childhood which made the biggest dupes of us. At the dawn of adolescence, when Barney begins to appear cloying and false, it seems natural to want to beat up on him, as though it was Barney himself who pulled one over on us instead of our own poignant and necessary misapprehension of the nature of things. I could see Holden Caulfield beating up on Barney (at least rhetorically), and I could see Holden Caulfield missing Barney (as he misses all the phonies at the end of the book), but I cannot see Holden Caulfield accepting the postlapsarian Barney on new terms, as a figure who is meant for children and not for him. For all his touching poses about wanting to be the catcher in the rye, what Holden really wants is not to save children but to be a child again.February 6, 2025Often touted as a coming-of-age book, I beg to differ. This book is about struggling with grief and loss.After suffering two tragedies, Holden is disoriented and searching for purchase. While Holden is desperately crying out for help, the adults in his life consistently fail him. Holden wants to preserve the innocence of childrensomething no one has done for him. And his kid sister Phoebe seems to provide the foundation which Holden so urgently needs.While The Catcher in the Rye is too character driven for my taste, as a more sophisticated reader, I

have a deeper appreciation for some of its subtletiesthe glory is in the details. For example, F. Scott Fitzgerald heavily influenced Salinger. There are numerous nods to Fitzgerald throughout the workThe Great Gatsby is even mentioned by name, and some of Fitzgeralds vocabulary has slipped into this novel. In Chapter 10, Holden goes to The Lavendar Room. As a parallel, Mrytle selects a lavender taxicab in The Great Gatsby. When was the last time you used the word lavender? It isnt a word that is used particularly often, or should I snobbishly say frequently or would that cause me to be a bore? (Yes, all of these words were used in both The Great Gatsby and The Catcher in the Rye)Further, when Holden talks about going to the museum, he notes that everything is the same, the only thing that would be different would be you. This is an original take on an old transcendentalist idea. In the conclusion of Walden, my good friend, Henry David Thoreau states, Things do not change; we change.When I am a professor at Yale, I will allow my students to write papers on transcendentalism in The Catcher in the Rye.Another quote from Walden: The philosopher is in advance of his age even in the outward form of his life. He is not fed, sheltered, clothed, warmed like his contemporaries.In The Catcher in the Rye, while Holden is contemplating the universe, he is living a countercultural experience, rejecting the norms of his peers. He certainly isnt eating his sack lunch at his desk.The Green Light at the End of the Dock (How much I spent):Hardcover Text $89.40 for a 2010 Boxed Set of Hardcover Salinger Books on MercariSoftcover Text - Origin Unknown, have had this book for quite a long timeConnect With Me!Blog Threads BookTube Facebook Insta My Bookstore at PangoJuly 13, 2009I was worried as hell about reading this book again. The last time I read it was about a thousand years ago when I was just a kid. I was lousy with angst just like good old Holden back then. I really was. Now that Im a crummy old guy I figured that I wouldnt like it anymore. Thats the one thing about crummy old guys, they always hate books that kids like. Every time I reread a corny book that I really liked when I was a kid it makes me want to give the writer a buzz and ask what the hell is going on. Its like they are trying to give you the time in the back of a cab when you dont feel like getting the time at all. Its damn depressing, I swear to God it is. If you want to know the truth, you probably couldnt even talk to a phony writer on the phone. You would just end up talking to his butler or some snobbish person like that and asking if they would give the writer your message. He probably wouldnt even do it. The thing with guys like that is that they will never give writers your messages. Thats something that annoys the hell out of me. Turns out this is still a damn good book. Salinger kid is a great writer. He really is. Maybe Im still just an angst-ridden sonuvabitch, but this part kills me:All the kids kept trying to grab for the gold ring, and so was old Phoebe, and I was sort of afraid shed fall off the goddam horse, but I didnt say anything or do anything. 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 its bad if you say anything to them.p.211Ill bet everyone is going to think that Im just horsin around or trying to be all sexy talking like this. The reason for this corny review is because a thousand other people have already written reviews for this book and Ill bet that they have already said everything that I want to say. Its pretty depressing. It really is. Thats about all that Im going to talk about. Now I just hope that no one writes fuck you on this review. Thats the thing with some people, they are always sneaking up and writing fuck you on your book reviews when you are not looking. They really are.February 9, 2024Edit: stop liking and commenting on this review. It's 2021. And the book is still shit.Edit 2: overall, the unhinged reactions to this review i wrote as a junior in high school says MUCH more about the GoodReads community than it does about my IQ or my ability to analyze literature. to the people frothing at the mouth over this: please go and touch grass. If I could give this book a zero, I would. I absolutely hated it. Generally, I don't hate books, either. Usually it's a very strong dislike, and generally, I give them a second chance. But no, I will never be reading this book again.In my opinion, Holden is the worst character in the English language. Salinger tried just too damn hard to make him 'universal', to the point where he becomes unrealistic. His train of thought is annoying and repetitive, and God, those catchphrases of his. Can someone shut this kid up? Holden is almost the anti-Gary Stu. Nearly every thing's wrong with him. The one good thing about him being his love for his younger sister. The plot is one of the worst I've ever read. It's boring, and it, like Holden, is unbelievably and painfully repetitive. Holden calls up an old friend, has a drink. Holden calls up a girl, has a drink. Holden dances with a girl. Then he drinks. Was there a climax to this book? I must have missed it. Maybe it was Holden nearly freezing to death (um, what?) in Central Park? No, no, maybe it was when Holden called up that hooker! Maybe not. The plot is so fuzzy and flat I couldn't tell when to peak my interest.And that's just it, it never did.So buh-bye, Holden! Your book's been gathering dust on my shelf for the past two years and it'll stay that way. Until I decide to sell it, of course.December 4, 2013I read this book for the first time in the 8th grade. I had to get my mom to sign a permission slip because of the cursing. Before I began reading, I had so many expectations. Back then, I read Seventeen Magazine, and back then, Seventeen Magazine ran brainy features about books and poetry. There was one feature where they asked people what book changed their lives, and something like more than half said Catcher in the Rye. I think there might have been some celebrity comments in there, too. At any rate, it was a ringing endorsement.So you can imagine my disappointment when I hated it. Not only did I hate Holden, but I hated everything about the novel. There was nothing I enjoyed. I did my book report where I confessed my hatred (which led my teacher to confess that she did, too), but I couldn't let it go. I honestly felt that my loathing of a novel that so many others found "life-changing" indicated some deep and horrible flaw. I felt like hating Catcher in the Rye was my dirty little secret.Time passed, and my self-loathing mellowed. I began to think that perhaps I'd come at it too young, so after my first year of college, I decided to re-read it, go at it with fresh eyes, and see if my opinion had changed.Here's the thing: it hasn't. I get it. I get that Holden is supposed to be loathsome. I get that he is the hypocrite he hates. I get that almost all teenagers go through the kind of thinking he experiences. I get it. I do. I just don't like it.Oh, and I'm not ashamed anymore.May 29, 2008My theory as to this book's unusually polarizing nature: either you identify with Holden Caulfield or you don't.Those who see themselves (either as they were or, God help them, as they are) in Holden see a misunderstood warrior-poet, fighting the good fight against a hypocritical and unfeeling world; they see in Salinger a genius because he gets it, and he gets them.Those of us who don't relate to Holden see in him a self-absorbed whiner, and in Salinger, a one-trick-pony who lucked into performing his trick at a time when some large fraction of America happened to be in the right collective frame of mind to perceive this boring twaddle as subversive and meaningful.February 1, 2024a lot of people say this book sucks because holden is annoying and complains all the time, but that's actually why it's good.nothing could be more relatable.and also it's the story of a heartbreakingly empathetic CHILD coping with coming of age and the death of his brother while being betrayed by every authority figure and person he trusts, and his main takeaway is still loving his sister and appreciating the world around him and missing everyone he's met.what book did these people read???part of a series i'm doing in which i review books i read a long time ago---------------reread updatesreading this on the train so no one talks to me4-stars classics owned October 23, 2020so sorry, guess im a phony October 31, 2011Sometimes truth isn't just stranger than fiction, it's also more interesting and better plotted. Salinger helped to pioneer a genre where fiction was deliberately less remarkable than reality. His protagonist says little, does little, and thinks little, and yet Salinger doesn't string Holden up as a satire of deluded self-obsessives, he is rather the epic archetype of the boring, yet self-important depressive.I've taken the subway and had prolonged conversations on the street with prostitutes (not concerning business matters), and I can attest that Salinger's depiction is often accurate to what it feels like to go through an average, unremarkable day. However, reading about an average day is no more interesting than living one.Beyond that, Salinger doesn't have the imagination to paint people as strangely as they really are. Chekhov's 'normal' little people seem more real and alive than Salinger's because Chekhov injects a little oddness, a little madness into each one. Real people are almost never quite as boring as modernist depictions, because everyone has at least some ability to surprise you.Salinger's world is desaturated. Emotions and moments seep into one another, indistinct as the memories of a drunken party. Little importance is granted to events or thoughts, but simply pass by, each duly tallied by an author in the role of court reporter.What is interesting about this book is not that it is realistically bland, but that it is artificially bland. Yet, as ridiculous a concept as that is, it still takes itself entirely in earnest, never acknowledging the humor of its own blase hyperbole.This allows the book to draw legions of fans from all of the ridiculously dull people who take themselves as seriously as Holden takes himself. They read it not as a parody of bland egotism but a celebration, poised to inspire all the bland egotists who have resulted from the New Egalitarianism in Art, Poetry, Music, and Academia.Those same folks who treat rationality and intellectual fervor like a fashion to be followed, imagining that the only thing required to be brilliant is to mimic the appearance and mannerisms of the brilliant; as if black berets were the cause of poetic inspiration and not merely a symptom.One benefit of this is that one can generally sniff out pompous faux intellectuals by the sign that they hold up Holden as a sort of messianic figure. Anyone who marks out Holden as a role-model is either a deluded teen with an inflated sense of entitlement, or is trying to relive the days when they were.But what is more interesting is that those who idolize Holden tend to be those who most misunderstand him. Upon close inspection, he's not depressive, not consumed with ennui or an existential crisis, he's actually suffering from 'Shell Shock'--now known as 'Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder'.The way he thinks about his brother's and classmate's deaths--going over the details again and again in his mind, but with no emotional connection--it's not symptomatic of depression, but of psychological trauma. He is stuck in a cycle, unable to process events, going over them again and again, but never able to return to normalcy.It takes a certain kind of self-centered prick to look at someone's inability to cope with the reality of death and think "Hey, that's just like my mild depression over how my parents won't buy me a newer ipod!" It's not an unusual stance in American literature--there's an arrogant detachment in American thought which has become less and less pertinent as the world grows and changes. As recently as The Road we have American authors comparing a difficult father-son relationship to the pain and turmoil of an African civil war survivor--and winning awards for displaying their insensitive arrogance.Perhaps it's time we woke up and realized that the well-fed despondence of the white man should not be equated with a lifetime of death, starvation, war, and traumas both physical and emotional. And as for Salinger--a real sufferer of Post-Traumatic Stress who was one of the first soldiers to see a concentration camp, who described how you can never forget the smell of burning flesh--I can only imagine how he felt when people read his story of a man, crippled by the thought of death, and thought to themselves "Yes, that's just what it's like to be a trustafarian with uncool parents". No wonder he became a recluse and stopped publishing.america contemporary-fiction novel July 31, 2016Well, this was a pain to get through.First of all, this is a shitty way to start a novel no matter how you want to introduce your main character.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. That is easily one of the saddest, most pathetic introductions to a book. As I started this book, I wondered... if the introduction is like this, how will the rest of the book be? This is what the rest of the book looked like:"He was also the nicest, in lots of ways. He never got mad at anybody. People with red hair are supposed to get mad very easily, but Allie never did, and he had very red hair. I'll tell you what kind of red hair he had." "I sort of used to go to Allie's baseball matches.""It was around ten-thirty, I guess, when I finished it." I can imagine Holden as this very insipid, boring little kid with no life in him whatsoever. Also, Holden thinks everyone besides him is a phony and a moron. And he makes it very clear because he mentions it, like, every two pages. Literally... every damn time. I read some of the comments regarding how I didn't understand this book because I didn't relate to it. That may be true. Very, very true. Regardless, I still think to this day that this book is a drag and has an unlikable main character and a dry, boring writing style. Perhaps I will read it again when I am older and maybe I'll enjoy it. bad-writing half-wit-characters hateNovember 8, 2007A spell in the army would do that young man a power of good! Or maybe a couple of bags of heroin. Anything to stop that whining voice....August 6, 2022Reading this book was one of the biggest wastes of my time in the past twenty years. Holden Caulfield's problem is that he is the biggest phony he knows. Count the number of times he lies or behaves like someone he's not and then try to convince me otherwise. This is not a book about teenage alienation. It's about a smart-ass who can't deal with who he really is and spends almost 300 pages ranting about it - most likely to a doctor in a psych ward. literary-fiction philosophical-literatureMay 8, 2008J.D. Salingers Catcher in the Rye was published on July 16, 1951. It was his first novel. It became very popular among young adolescents yet not so popular with older generations. I personally thoroughly enjoyed every part of this book. I felt very close to Holden Caulfield, the main character in the story, as I read it. Holden Caulfield, a sixteen year old boy from New York, was quite unlike kids his age. He had no interest in being popular or social. From the very beginning he lets us into part of his personal life. His parents are very touchy and his mother is especially protective. It becomes clear very quickly where Holdens interests lie and where they start to veer off. He tends to lean away from the fake in the world and is a teller of what is real. Holden is not a fan of the movies at all. He saw his brother, D.B., throw away his natural writing talent all for a large Hollywood check. Any other boy Holdens age would have been absolutely ecstatic to have a sibling working amongst the stats in Hollywood, but not Holden. It was all far too phony for him; and phony is his worst enemy. Salingers use of sarcasm and irony is beautiful and hilarious. As I read through each chapter I found myself highlighting funny, sarcastic things Holden would say or think (and trust me, there are DOZENS of time where this occurs.) One specific time in Chapter 8 he is talking to a cab driver who is acting like a real fool. Holden says to the readers, He certainly was good company. Terrific personality. Salingers character Holden is actually a lot like Salinger in his real life. Like Holden, Salinger was known for his reclusive nature. Uninterested with the fakeness of the world, Holden keeps his distance from phony people. After Salingers success of The Catcher in the Rye, he slowed down his publishing and slowly but surely drifted out of the public eye. To this day Salinger refuses any offers to have The Catcher put on the big Hollywood screen. Salingers ex lover, Joyce Maynard, even once said that, The only person who might ever have played Holden Caulfield would have been J.D. Salinger. It seems to me that it is no coincidence that Holden is no fan of Hollywood and that Salinger in real life and doesnt want anything to do with turning his popular novel into a movie. Holden says, If theres one thing I hate, its the movies, Dont even mention them to me.Since I have learned more about Salingers personal life, I recognize a lot of Salingers personality in Holden. In the story, Holden has overbearing parents much like Salingers parents. Salinger said his mother was over protective. Salinger has one sibling, a sister, which is ironic because it is Holdens sister Phoebe who has a profound influence on Holden. He often talks about her with very high regards.Holden is not a character who tried to sugarcoat the way he sees the fakeness around him. Holden, making fun of the people around him, often says things like you wouldve puked and it was very phony. I think that is another one of the reasons I like his character so much. For example, he is quite upset with the fact that his brother D.B. is selling his work to Hollywood instead of using his talents for his own pleasure. Holden even says that his brother is his favorite author. Salinger himself is a man who wrote for his own pleasure and likeness. I made a similar connection to a girl named Sally that Holden likes in the book, to a real life lover of Salingers named Oona. Oona ONeil was self-absorbed and stuck up, according to Salinger, yet he still phoned and wrote her letters quite often. Holdens Oona in the story was a girl named Sally Hayes. Though he found her extremely irritating he thought she was very attractive as well. After spending a day with her, he pointed out about a dozen instances where he thought she was being phone as hell. By the end of their only meeting in the book, Holden says to Sally, You give me a royal pain in the ass if you want to know the truth. The real life Oona ONeil ended up breaking it off with Salinger and married the famous actor, Charlie Chaplin.Despite Holden being a sixteen year old teenage boy he acts much older than his age. One time in the story he has the chance to be with a prostitute but instead of acting like a pig, he starts to feel sorry for her and instead tried to have a conversation with her. He even offers to pay her for good conversation instead of for sex. He also stays alone in hotels randomly, drinks at bars and clubs often, and even tells people hes older than he really is. But the reason I find his character mature and intellectual is for other reasons.Holden does not hold money or material things to be really important. He is more excited to hang out with his kid sister than he is any other time in the entire book. He is content with something that would probably be boring to other guys his age.Like many teenagers, Holden is often depressed. The way he deals with it most times actually breaks my heart in a way. He likes to talk to his deceased kid brother, Allie. He will take a real event that he can remember where he was talking with him and pretend he is talking to him again. He says, I started talking out loud to Allie. I do that sometimes when I get very depressed. It is really very heart wrenching to hear Holden talk about his brother. One of my favorite moments in the book is when Holden and Phoebe are talking in Phoebes room and she points out that Holden doesnt like anything. Holden responds quickly by saying, I like Allie. And I like doing what Im doing right now. Sitting here with you and talking and thinking about stuff Phoebe says to Holden, Allies dead-you always say that! If somebodys dead and everything, and in heaven then it isnt really--. Holden interrupts her with his final comeback, I know hes dead! Dont you think I know that? I can still like him, though, cant I? just because somebodys dead, you dont just stop liking them, for Gods sake- especially if they were about a thousand times nicer than the people you know thatre alive and all.One of the most beautiful things about The Catcher in the Rye is the way Salinger uses symbolism. From Holdens red hunting hat, to Jane Gallaghers checker playing technique, Salinger wrapped up more than meets the eye into things you never would have dreamed. The main thing that drew me into this story is the realness of Holdens character. He is a teenage boy with a teenage boys mind but seems to have far more common sense than anyone else around him. He is not a jock. He is not a math whiz or a science whiz. He is not really interested in sports. He sort of makes up his own category; a category that I call the genuine. He is on his own a lot and loves it at first, but happiness and love are meant to be shared with others. It has a much less meaning when by itself and he realizes it by the end of the novel. He is growing intellectually little by little throughout the whole book. He realizes what really makes him happy. I would absolutely recommend this book to anyone and everyone who would like to read a story that could possibly change the way they view the world. I have honestly laughed outloud to myself as I read this story. Yes, there is talk about drinking, sex, and lots of cussing, but if you are going to avoid reading this story because of that then your missing out on a beautiful masterpiece. Elle (ellexamines on TT & Substack)September 14, 2017Holden Caulfield is a character many, many people hate. And trust me, I get it. He's a posturing hypocrite. He's a dick. I wanted to hit him in the face for at least a hundred pages. We know this. But he's a character that, for some strange reason, resonates with thousands of people. Why? Well, simply put, it's because he's written like this on purpose. But I think that doesn't quite get to the heart of it. Holden is a fifteen-year-old kid on the verge of an emotional breakdown. He's an asshole. He's a liar. He's a hypocrite. And he's also... really relatable. See, as a preteen, I struggled with severe emotional issues. I had depression and anxiety, although I didn't know it yet. I was going through major emotional issues with my parents, ones far worse than teen angst. I was on the lowest rung of the social pole at school. And God, I was an asshole. I was whiny and I was a hypocrite. I knew it, too, and I cried myself to sleep thinking about it. In the daylight, I told myself everyone else was terrible and that's why my world was falling apart. I was just as hypocritical and torn up inside as Holden is. Holden is an asshole, granted. But he is an asshole that it's hard not to relate to. So all this is to say that I completely understand why so many hated this book. But it resonates with me, and with so many people I know, for the exact reason that it will be polarizing. This is the kind of book that's going to be incredibly divisive. This is the kind of book that should maybe be taught by a teacher who loves it (thanks, 9th grade English teacher who hated me.) And this is the kind of book that sticks in my head, a year after I first read it. VERDICT: I really do recommend this, even knowing at least half its readership will despise it. It's truly worth the read. 5-star classwork elle-recs-list March 28, 2023When youre young it always seems that the world is against you so you revolt and try to fight back and it takes time to discover your own place in the sun.Just as someday, if you have something to offer, someone will learn something from you. It's a beautiful reciprocal arrangement. And it isn't education. It's history. It's poetry.There always must be someone between you and an abyss who wouldn't let you make a fatal step.Mark David Chapman after he had shot John Lennon remained at the scene reading The Catcher in the Rye until the police arrived and arrested him books arent a remedy for madness.July 31, 2021(Book 529 from 1001 books) - The Catcher In The Rye, J.D. SalingerThe Catcher in the Rye is a 1951 novel by J. D. Salinger. Holden Caulfield, a teenager from New York City, is living in an unspecified institution in southern California near Hollywood in 1951. Story of Holden Caulfield with his idiosyncrasies, penetrating insight, confusion, sensitivity and negativism. The hero-narrator of "The Catcher in the Rye" is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it. There are many voices in this novel: children's voices, adult voices, underground voices -- but Holden's voice is the most eloquent of all. Transcending his own vernacular, yet remaining marvelously faithful to it, he issues a perfectly articulated cry of mixed pain and pleasure. However, like most lovers and clowns and poets of the higher orders, he keeps most of the pain to, and for, himself. The pleasure he gives away, or sets aside, with all his heart. : 1982 2001 2005: : (..) : 1345 354 1371 1381 326 9643112543 1385 1386 326 9789643112547 1387 1388 1389 1393 1393 256 9786001215930 - - 20: : 1378 296 1381 1384 207 1388 1389 1393 1951 : 27/05/1399 07/05/1400 . July 30, 2021The Catcher in the Rye, J.D. SalingerThe Catcher in the Rye is a 1951 novel by J. D. Salinger. A classic novel originally published for adults, it has since become popular with adolescent readers for its themes of teenage angst and alienation. It has been translated into almost all of the world's major languages. The novel's protagonist Holden Caulfield has become an icon for teenage rebellion. The novel also deals with complex issues of innocence, identity, belonging, loss, and connection.The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it.There are many voices in this novel: children's voices, adult voices, underground voices -- but Holden's voice is the most eloquent of all. Transcending his own vernacular, yet remaining marvelously faithful to it, he issues a perfectly articulated cry of mixed pain and pleasure.However, like most lovers and clowns and poets of the higher orders, he keeps most of the pain to, and for, himself. The pleasure he gives away, or sets aside, with all his heart. It is there for the reader who can handle it to keep. : : (..) : 1982 2001 2005: : (..) : 1345 354 1371 1381 326 9643112543 1385 1386 326 9789643112547 1387 1388 1389 1393 1393 256 9786001215930 - 20: : 1378 296 1381 1384 207 1388 1389 1393: 1398 232 9786226518550: . : 1398 270 9786009957996 : : 1398 336 9786226827188: 1389 254 9786005883145: 1397 200 9786008072263: . 1397 230 9789643748449: . : 1392 232 9786001541681: 1398 300 9786008325444: 1400 289 9786229695036 : 1397 224 1398 256 : : . 1951 . 23/05/1399 07/05/1400 . November 30, 2022MY OWN PRIVATE HOLDEN E via dicendo e discorrendo, and all, vattelapesca, tutto il resto e roba del genere, sonovabitch, crap, moron, ass, phony, lousy, traduzione nuova, vecchia o metatraduzione, questo libro e rimane un capolavoro. Un diecistelle, magnifico, stupendo, meraviglioso, grandioso, sublime, incredibile, eccellente, sorprendente, incantevole, mirabolante, indicibile, strabiliante, indescrivibile, prodigioso, sbalorditivo, ineffabile, portentoso, stupefacente, eccezionale, magico Ma non splendido. Splendido no, perch il vecchio Holden detesta questa parola, dice che da ipocriti e vomita ogni volta che la sente.Un romanzo che scritto ieri, ma anche oggi, e domani, dura nel tempo, viene da lontano e va lontano.Non solo per quelli che hanno pi domande che risposte. Non solo per quelli che non sanno dove vanno le anatre quando il laghetto di Central Park South ghiacciato.Non solo per quelli che identificano la condizione umana nella solitudine.Non solo per quelli che ladolescenza uno stato dellessere non un periodo della vita, e Peter Pan non mai stato adolescente. Non solo per quelli che si specchiano in queste pagine e sentono che il vecchio Holden Caulfield il fratello che avrebbero sempre voluto.Non solo per quelli che Holden Caulfield sono io.Non solo per quelli che la vita una partita un cazzo, alla faccia della partita se si sta dalla parte dove di forte non c nessuno. Non solo per quelli che scelgono sempre il momento migliore per inciampare in una stupida valigia.Non solo per quelli che sono un po atei, Ges simpatico ma di tutta laltra roba che c nella bibbia non importa granch e gli apostoli stanno proprio sulle palle. Paranoid Park di Gus Van Sant, 2007.Non solo per quelli che il cuore batte cos forte che a momenti volano fuori della stanza. Non solo per quelli che si dispiacciono di pi quando ammazzano il vecchio Mercuzio di quando muoiono Giulietta e Romeo. Non solo per quelli che non sanno spiegare cosa vuol dire essere diverso e anche se ci riuscissero non sicuro che gli andrebbe di farlo. Non solo per quelli che non riescono a trovare niente praticamente in niente e sono conciati da far schifo.Non solo per quelli che non ci saranno posti meravigliosi dove andare dopo che avranno fatto luniversit e tutto quanto. Non solo per quelli che finiscono per odiare il genere umano, giuro.Non solo per quelli che non si amano e non si ammirano."Last Days di Gus Van Sant, 2005.Non solo per quelli che come la vecchia Phoebe ascoltano sempre quando dici una cosa.Non solo per quelli che non c bisogno che uno sia una cattiva persona per farti venire la depressione, pu anche essere una bravissima persona e fartela venire lo stesso, specie se si mette a dare un sacco di consigli da ipocrita.Non solo per quelli che non mi piace quando uno rimane in argomento sempre, troppo perch bello quando uno va fuori tema.Non solo per quelli che una cosa che mi manda in bestia quando ti dicono che il caff pronto e invece no.Non solo per quelli che secondo me uno bisogna lasciarlo in pace se almeno dice cose interessanti e si entusiasma per qualcosa.Non solo per quelli che non sono mica tanti quelli che odio, e li odio di tanto in tanto, magari per un po ma non dura mai molto.Non solo per quelli che brutto dover dire roba nuova alla gente di centanni.Non solo per quelli che dio come odio quando mi gridano buona fortuna mentre me ne vado da un posto.Non solo per quelli che pensano di saperlo ma alla fine che ne sanno.Non solo per quelli che mi spiace averlo raccontato a tanta gente"Resteless - Lamore che resta" di Gus Van Sant, film del 2011Il linguaggio ben diverso, ma qui siamo dalle parti di una tragedia del grande William da Stratford-upon-Avon.A strati, come tutta la grande arte, Holden un mito, come Ulisse, una pietra di paragone, un personaggio collettivo.PSMi sa che mi manca pure quello scemo di Maurice.PPSSMa perch Mark David Chapman aveva in tasca proprio questo libro al numero 1 della 72nd Street West alle 22.51 dell 8 dicembre 1980?Ancora da "Resteless - Lamore che resta" di Gus Van Sant.August 19, 2022Catcher in the rye is one of most debatable, argumentative, complex novels of the century. Some people think its a masterpiece: great approach of corruption, phoniness of peoples characteristics which is reflected by the perspective of Holden Caulfield who feels and sees so much for his young age. And some of the other reviewers think this book is incredibly boring and Holden is such a sassy, arrogant, pretentious little bastard who has no idea about real life, its challenges, struggles without any proper experiences you may only have when you get aged and connect with people without thinking their phony, fake or artificial. In my opinion, if you read this book at several different time lines of your lives, you get different impressions, taste and your undeniably hate to the character may turn into empathy or understanding because I can honestly say every person in his/ her own life has a Holden phase: you start criticizing the people who lost their innocence long time ago by building mandatory, insincere relationships. You feel like youre alone in the crowd, walking alone in the dark, keep screaming but no sound comes out. This book is not only about a teenage, know it all, irritating boys silent scream, its our own challenge to face how to be grown up, how to wear our new aged characteristics like wearing a two sized bigger human coat. As soon as you catch your inner Holden during your read, his words will start to talk directly to your soul and heart at the same time. I personally read this book four times. At first time it was for my school work and as you may imagine I hate the guts of the character but second reading of mine was completely different. I felt like I was the one talking through characters mouth. I read it for third time for few years back for my book club (they threw me out because I started to read 6 books instead of 1 weekly and gave so much spoiler!) and today I chose it as my flashback Saturday read for fourth time reading! Its still quite remarkable coming of age novel about teenage angst, innocence, loneliness, growing pains. It always awaken different feelings you have no idea they exist. But as I say before, dont read this book only one time. Just give it a chance, try several times at different phases of your life. And dont you dare to kill your inner Holden! Sometimes being rebellious is better than being obedient without questioning anything further.Here are my favorite quotes of the book: I dont care if its a sad good-bye or a bad good-bye, but when I leave a place I like to know Im leaving it. If you dont, you feel even worse.The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.The best thing, though, in that museum was that everything always stayed right where it was. Nobodyd move. You could go there a hundred thousand times, and that Eskimo would still be just finished catching those two fish, the birds would still be on their way south, the deers would still be drinking out of that water hole Nobodyd be different The only thing that would be different would be you.People always clap for the wrong reasons.I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all. I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be. I know it's crazy.August 1, 2021(Book 529 from 1001 Books) - The Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger The Catcher in the Rye is a story by J. D. Salinger, first published in serial form in 1945-6 and as a novel in 1951. Story of Holden Caulfield with his idiosyncrasies, penetrating insight, confusion, sensitivity and negativism. The hero-narrator of "The Catcher in the Rye" is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days.The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it.There are many voices in this novel: children's voices, adult voices, underground voices -- but Holden's voice is the most eloquent of all. Transcending his own vernacular, yet remaining marvelously faithful to it, he issues a perfectly articulated cry of mixed pain and pleasure.However, like most lovers and clowns and poets of the higher orders, he keeps most of the pain to, and for, himself. The pleasure he gives away, or sets aside, with all his heart. It is there for the reader who can handle it to keep. : : (..) : 1982 2001 2005: : (..) : 1345 354 1371 1381 326 9643112543 1385 1386 326 9789643112547 1387 1388 1389 1393 : 1393 256 9786001215930 - - 20: : 1378 296 1381 1384 207 1388 1389 1393 . : 1951 : 03/06/1399 09/05/1400 . July 7, 2023One of the most overrated, hyper drivel YA classics ever See, it was published in 1951 by a young (one trick pony?) authorwho wrote his higher rated (better?, see ratings) works after The Catcher. And who was, as so many authors of the time, first primarily specialized in short stories and, gosh, The Catcher exactly is a short story collection with A protagonist staggering from one boring episode to the nextBecause there is no real freaking action, antagonists except everything the protagonist is interacting with, and no real sense except a teenager rebelling against everything. This all would be fine and entertaining, if there Would be any wit, more complex characters, and less introspective fringe philosophy of a first person narratorWho has some controversial thoughts and feelings about life and sexuality. It did a good job at fighting conservative intolerance to get some more open, progressive thinking out into the world, but it just hasnt the quality and depth needed to be a universal milestone of literature. For young readers of the 20th century, it might have been a mind opening, controversial read that understood them, but It didnt age wellExcept for the important message of not trying to proselytize kids and teens for outdated ideologies and faith stigmatizing anything kinky, whats left? Well, depressingly long periods of boredom, because the novel just doesnt deliver and Salinger is so egocentric to absolutely not care about the millennia old rules of good storytelling and creative writing. One has to suffer with the protagonist who exactly delivers nothing except of some outrageous actions. Other authors like Roald Dahl, Mark Twain, etc. wrote funny and deep novels with real plots that subtly and ironically integrated different topics, issues, and controversies in their work and were loved by audiences of all ages because they were well written. Or the even bigger load of modern YA authors who write dystopian novels in the Orwellian and Huxleyian tradition. But not funny, boring, first person drivel about the stereotypical teenage rebellion against a restrictive, bigoted system? Not so much, Because it bores the heck out of the readersI forced myself to finish this overhyped story idea collection and couldnt even detect some sophisticated message behind the seemingly superficial plot. And what always annoys me the most is that each country around the world has similar patriotic tendencies to pick average and bad books and declare them the gold standard because the author is a proud author citizen. As good as the intentions were and as important the works might have been in creating a more open and tolerant society, today they are the main reason why many young people, tortured with the modified, individualized trash of each big culture and country, hate reading after school. Because they think that reading is associated with boredom and having to find deeper meanings where there are none. Subjectivity overkillAnd it seems that, because of the weaknesses, The Catcher has become a completely subjective, absolutely not universally acclaimed great, experience, depending on the question of if one likes or dislikes the protagonist. Good literature shouldnt depend on that single factor.Tropes show how literature is conceptualized and created and which mixture of elements makes works and genres unique: 26, 2024There are books that we love without knowing why. Is it their form, content, writing quality, or the story they tell? We read them, cry or smile, and even remember them years after finishing them. The Catcher in the Rye is, for my part, in this category. It is a great classic. I read it late, but fortunately, it was not too late. Does he awaken in me this adolescent that we have all more or less buried in us? Surely. Did he seduce me with this natural shade? Is this language written down on paper as it comes out of the mouth and the young man's mind searching for himself? Indeed, but after all, whatever. Holden Caulfield takes us to bourgeois America in the 1950s, from his college, where he has just been dismissed, to New York Central Station. Scrolling through friends, families, and acquaintances, and delivering us by freeing ourselves, his wounds and joys, his loves and dislikes of people and things, and his teenage life. But enough talk - "Digression"!! (you will understand by reading it) - read on.2020-readings american-literature coming-of-age September 1, 2024Holden Caulfield is a mixed- up cynical teenager, getting kicked out of another prestigious school, Pencey Prep, in Pennsylvania, the irony is that this obviously intelligent, privileged, 16 year- old, is somehow flunking out, why? He doesn't care about anything, especially education, bored and feeling neglected by his wealthy, New York City family . At least Caulfield passed English class, he's always reading, his big problem, he's so unmotivated, nothing seems important to this kid (set in 1949). Holden has no real friends in school, or liking anyone there, and the sentiment is very mutual, everything is "phony", his favorite word, which he speaks and thinks constantly. When Holden's younger brother Allie, died three years ago, it marked him forever, afterwards, the boy was changed and stops believing . Getting into a fight with a much stronger opponent, his roommate Stradlater, and losing naturally no surprise to Holden, (punishment he craved) just before sneaking out of Pencey, an institution he hates, with a fervent passion. Taking the train to New York City, his hometown, but Holden doesn't go back to his uncaring family, his father, a well- to- do lawyer, too busy for Holden, nervous mother, she wants quiet, please, older brother D.B. a Hollywood writer, younger sister Phoebe, his only confidant, and the person he loves. Checking into the Edmont Hotel in the "Big Apple", a rather shabby, rundown place, (I wouldn't recommend staying there) and then the elevator operator the sleazy Maurice , gets him a prostitute, Sunny, she's Holden's age and he kind of feels sorry for her. Gives the lady of the night, five dollars just for talking, sends her away, good deeds are always rewarded, Maurice, comes back with Sunny for more money, a dispute arises, but they leave with an extra five, and a sock in the stomach of the poorer, but wiser Holden. Chain smoking with gusto and delight, drinking in bars, (dives) like a man, where people aren't too concerned about a customers age just the color of his dough, going to a Broadway play with a very accommodating girlfriend, attending the loathsome movies and seeing all those phonies, the actors, fighting with unsmiling cab drivers , the kid is having a good time, living like a grown-up, as long as the cash lasts. But what will he do, runaway or go back and face the music...his remote parents? The bible for disgruntled teenagers, and a must read for every new generation.......P.S. the title comes from a Robert Burns poemFebruary 6, 2008I know there are people who thought this book changed their lives and helped them find their unique way in the world, but coming from a non-white, non-middleclass background, as a kid, I really resented having to read about this spoiled, screwed up, white, rich kid who kept getting chance after chance and just kept blowing it because he was so self-absorbed and self-pitying. I felt at the time there was no redeeming value in it for me. I was born on the outside trying my best to get in. I felt no sympathy for him at all. I didn't even find him funny. It just made me angry. I guess it still does. Dr. Appu Sasidharan (Dasfill)February 23, 2023There are some areas in this book that we might question the actions of Holden, especially if we reread this book after we have grown up. But still, I think that this is one of the best coming of age novels I was lucky enough to read in my life. The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one. June 5, 2022Ustedes conocen el sndrome de Stendhal, pues Holden Caulfield, narrador y protagonista de esta historia, bien podra perfectamente prestar su nombre a ese sentimiento de emocin extrema que l mismo experimenta ante un acto de verdadera bondad, ms si proviene de un nio, pues no se puede dudar de la sincera bondad de un nio bondadoso (Salinger subestima la mala baba de los nios tanto como sobrevalora su felicidad). Un sndrome que tiene su cruz en el sentimiento contrario que experimenta al ser testigo de la hipocresa, el fingimiento y la petulancia con la que actan los adultos en su mundo insustancial y egosta. Me paso el da imponindome lmites que luego cruzo todo el tiempo. Y entre esa niez y esa adultez anda Holden, expulsado nuevamente de un colegio, cabreado con su hermano mayor por haberse vendido al cine de Hollywood y abatido por la muerte de su hermano Allie, el muchacho ms simptico, inteligente y entraable del mundo. Tampoco es que est muy contento de s mismo, condicin ms que suficiente para odiar a todos, aunque no soporte estar solo, y hasta para dudar de sus propias intenciones, por muy buenas que estas sean. si de verdad te pones a defender a tos inocentes, cmo sabes que lo haces porque quieres salvarles la vida, o porque quieres que todos te consideren un abogado estupendo y te den palmaditas en la espalda y te feliciten los periodistas cuando acaba el juicio como pasa en toda esa imbecilidad de pelculas? Cmo sabes t mismo que no te ests mintiendo? Eso es lo malo, que nunca llegas a saberlo. Holden encarna como nadie al adolescente que no sabe quin es ni dnde encaja, que descubre un mundo, el de los adultos, que no le gusta y, lo que es peor, que no tiene solucin. Eso es lo malo. Que no hay forma de dar con un sitio tranquilo porque no existe. Cuando te crees que por fin lo has encontrado, te encuentras con que alguien ha escrito un joder en la pared aunque dedicara uno a eso un milln de aos, nunca sera capaz de borrar todos los joder del mundo. Sera imposible. Holden es un Peter Pan que solo se siente a gusto entre nios, encarnados en su hermana Phoebe, a cuya proteccin frente a ese mundo horrible que est descubriendo dedicara su vida. Sabes que me gustara ser? () Muchas veces me imagino que hay un montn de nios jugando en un campo de centeno. Miles de nios. Y estn solos. Quiero decir que no hay nadie mayor vigilndolos. Solo yo. Estoy al borde de un precipicio y mi trabajo consiste en evitar que caigan por l. En cuanto empiezan a correr sin mirar adnde van, yo salgo de donde est y los cojo. Eso es lo que me gustara hacer todo el tiempo. Yo sera el guardin entre el centeno Holden puede ser muy dulce, divertido, considerado, pero tambin un tocapelotas capaz de llamarte por telfono a cualquier hora, de despertarte en mitad de la noche, de rondar incesantemente a tu alrededor como una mosca cojonera o, sin conocerte, de abordarte abusivamente con un desparpajo impropio de su edad. Es cobarde, mentiroso, bebe mucho, fuma ms, querra follar, no solo follar, no aguanta halagos, todo le suena a falso, todo y todos le deprimen, todo el mundo es hipcrita, todo le saca de quicio o le fastidia o le revienta, todos son cretinos que no saben apreciar lo bueno y que se vuelven locos por lo malo y al mismo tiempo, puede sentir una lstima insoportable por toda esa gente o echar de menos al ms cretino de sus amigos al poco de separarse de l. haba como un milln de chicas esperando a su pareja: chicas con las piernas cruzadas, chicas con piernas preciosas, chicas con piernas horrorosas, chicas que parecan estupendas, y chicas que deban ser unas brujas si de verdad se las llegaba a conocer bien. Era un bonito panorama, pero no s si me entendern lo que quiero decir. Aunque por otra parte era tambin bastante deprimente porque uno no poda dejar de preguntarse qu sera de todas ellas. Me refiero a cuando salieran del colegio y la universidad. La mayora se casaran con cretinos, tipos de esos que se pasan el da hablando de cuntos kilmetros pueden sacarle a un litro de gasolina, tipos que se enfadan como nios cuando pierden al golf o a algn juego tan estpido como el ping-pong, tipos mala gente de verdad, tipos que en su vida han ledo un libro, tipos aburridos..." El libro es divertido, tanto como tierno y conmovedor, su lenguaje es muy fresco, directo y sencillo demostrando que la claridad de la prosa no est reida con la complejidad de lo expuesto. Todos (casi) podemos recordar sentimientos parecidos, experimentar el sndrome Caulfield en algn momento, reconocernos en las peripecias de este inolvidable Holden Caulfield, que, por ello mismo, desde su aparicin es el gran arquetipo del adolescente atormentado.May 2, 2025[review updated after reading some of the 1*s]Dear gods, people. This isn't a book that's trying to give you a hero to follow on an adventure, or a moody bad boy who will change for the girl that understands him. It's not that kind of book and I'm sorry you were made to read it in school when you didn't want to. If you grew up knowing exactly who you were and fitting in neatly with all your classmates, if you never had a dark thought, a moment of confusion, a doubt about the 9-to-5 waiting for you, well ... even then this book could help you understand the vast swathes of us who were not so 'blessed'. And if you were less perfectly shaped for the world you found yourself in then this book might help you feel seen. Not in its specifics perhaps - people are broken in a vast number of ways - but in the idea that broken is normal.Our point of view character here is awkward, an idiot, up his own backside, hurting, over-cocky, full of doubt, absolutely certain, convinced he's better than us, drowning in low-self esteem ... in short he's a mass of contradictions. He's wrestling with fresh ideas (at least they're fresh to every child/teen as they coin them for themselves). Ideas that adults push aside, not because they know the answers but because time has taught them the futility of bashing their heads against them. Holden is in the head-bashing phase.We're all going to die. That's a mind-fuck. But we get over the fact because ... what else can we do? There's only so long you can spend staring into the abyss, and maybe you're going to dress in black and listen to moody music while you do that ... or perhaps just play football. But dammit, a lot of us are going to angst over it for at least a little bit.Among other things, this book is about growing up. It's about adolescence. We agonise about how to turn children into stable adults. About how to stop them being radicalised, keep them out of gangs, keep knives (or guns) out of their hands, help them form healthy relationships etc ... well ... this is a long hard look into the kind of mind that you're dealing with there.It's literary fiction - it's not trying to tell you an adventure story, it's asking questions, it's concerned with the human condition. It does a marvellous job at that. This is why we're still talking about it ~75 years after it was written. This is why nearly 4 million people have expressed their views on it here (if only by a rating).The number of angry readers lining up to express their contempt for it is ... well ... Holden Caulfield would approve. He'd have 1*ed it too and called it trash :D [original review]I gave this book its rating in 2010. I read it in 2000, rather later in life than most of its modern readers who appear to have been forced between the covers (so's to speak) by their English teacher at school. I'm reviewing it from memory in 2021.Although the book is about a schoolboy, I feel it's probably best read by someone later in life who has the perspective on those events that distance brings, and is better able to appreciate the bitter-sweet, awkward, spiky, rebellion-against-nothing-and-everything that adolescence can be for many, especially those who are intelligent but not comfortable in their skins. A common objection to the text is that our narrator is insufferable. He's self-absorbed, bitter, sarcastic, arrogant, clever, and not as clever as he thinks he is, all at once. He's exactly what a significant portion of the school kids forced to read the book are (most without appreciating it), and exactly what a portion of those who like the book in later life were.We're catapulted into adolescence and a lot of us don't deal with it very well. Add in some tragedy, some adversity, some attitude "problems" and you get a Holden Caulfield. You don't have to want to spend time in his company in order to find reading about him interact with the world fascinating. It's a messy book, erratic in places, it lies to you, and that helps it tell some difficult truths. It's easy to dismiss it as over-rated nonsense that intellectuals have read far too much into. And that's entirely possible. But it's also easy to miss its depth, and undoubtedly that's there too.I read the book on a trip to America from the UK for a job interview (I got the job but didn't take it - got another interview in a different state, another offer which I took). I feel it's a book that you'll read very differently depending on where you are in your life, which is something that depends on both your age and on how experience has shaped your thinking.I read it when I was 34, father of 3, on the edge of a big move, and when it spoke I felt it. Five stars. 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The catcher in the rye summary 1-7. Catcher in the rye chapter 1 summary. Catcher in the rye chapter 1-6 summary. Catcher in the rye summary chapter 1 7. Catcher in the rye chapter 1-5 summary.