

***The Catcher in the Rye* Unit Guide**

English 5-6

Mr. Coia

Mon 3/29 (Tues 3/30)

- Film Screenings

Wed 3/31 (Thurs 4/1)

- Check out *Catcher in the Rye*
- Explain Unit Guide
- Begin reading
- Chapters 1-4 (1-35)
- Vocabulary & short answers for 1-4

HW: Finish chapters 1-4 and chapter work

Fri 4/2 (Mon 4/5)

- Quiz on 1-4
- Chapters 5-9 (36-66)
- Vocabulary & short answers for 5-9
- Writing time for portfolio

HW: Finish chapters 5-9 and chapter work

Tues 4/6 (Wed 4/7)

- Quiz on 5-9
- Chapters 10-13 (66-98)
- Vocabulary & short answers for 10-13
- Writing time for portfolio

*HW: Finish chapters 10-13 and chapter work;
Writing Portfolio*

4/14 & 15 (Wednesday and Thursday) Testing days; no classes: these are excellent days to work on your Writing Portfolio Project

Thurs 4/8 (Fri 4/9)

- Quiz on 10-13
- Chapters 14-17 (98-134)
- Vocabulary & short answers for 14-17
- Writing time for portfolio

*HW: Finish chapters 14-17 and chapter work;
Writing Portfolio*

Mon 4/12 (Tues 4/13)

- **Parent Signature for *Igby* due**
- Quiz on 14-17
- Chapters 18-21
- Vocabulary & short answers for 18-21
- Writing time for portfolio

*HW: Finish chapters 18-21 and chapter work;
Writing Portfolio*

Fri 4/16 (Mon 4/19)

- Meet in computer lab for typing writing portfolio; bring your writing

HW: Writing portfolio

Tues 4/20 (Wed 4/21)

- Quiz on 18-21
- Chapters 22-26 (166-214)
- Vocabulary & short answers for 22-26
- Writing time for portfolio

*HW: Finish chapters 22-26 and chapter work;
Writing Portfolio*

Thurs 4/22 (Fri 4/23)

- Quiz on 22-end
- Discussion of ending
- Carousel as a symbol
- Characterization Sheet
- Writing time for portfolio

HW: Writing portfolio

Mon 4/26 (Tues 4/27)

- **Writing Portfolios Due**
- *Igby Goes Down*

HW: Essay comparing Holden and Igby; pick any aspect to write about; about 500 words

Wed 4/28 (Thurs 4/29)

- **Essay due**
- *Catcher in the Rye* Exam
- Turn in text (No book = No exam)
- Post-Reading response
- Finish *Igby*

***The Catcher in the Rye* Unit Guide**

English 5-6

Mr. Coia

Name: _____

“What really knocks me out is a book that, when you’re done reading it, you wish the author that wrote it was a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it.”

–Holden Caulfield

Prepare yourself for Holden Caulfield and the novel , *The Catcher in the Rye*. Holden is probably one of the most rebellious, cynical, and disturbed characters you will meet in English class. Yet, you may feel strangely connected to this troubled young man. You may, perhaps, do what countless other readers have done in the past fifty years: you may see remnants of Holden Caulfield in yourself.

Assignment Overview:

Vocabulary work:	30 points
Short Answers:	60 points
Worksheets:	20 points
Essay:	25 points
Writing Portfolio:	50 points
Exam:	80 points
Post-Reading	10 points
<i>Catcher</i> in Culture:	20 points (extra credit)

Creative Writing Portfolio

You will show your understanding of the novel by selecting any five pieces to write about concerning *The Catcher in the Rye*. Your task is to collect pieces of writing in the style that stays true to the novel. This is a creative writing piece, as well as a way to get involved in the life of Holden Caulfield. For the first four choices, the page numbers in brackets refer to where the writing is mentioned in the story. The novel will give you a starting point as to how to begin. Again, you are writing in the voice and style of another. This will be challenging for you if you haven't done this before.

Here are your choices:

1. **D.B.'s story**, "The Secret Goldfish." [page 2]
 2. **Thurmer's note** to the Caulfields (business letter format) [page 8]
 3. **Holden's essay** for Stradlater [pages 28, 34, 38]
 4. **2 poems** from Allie's mitt (these must be original) [page 38]
 5. Write an "**I Want to Cry Out**" poem from Holden
 6. **Song titles**-pick five songs that relate to the themes of the novel. Include lyrics and reasons for the connection. (No CD needed)
 7. **Chapter titles**: You can pick up where Salinger left off. Give original and interesting chapter titles for all 26 chapters
 8. **Quiz questions**: Write three excellent test questions for any five chapters (a total of 15 questions)
 9. **Artistic project**: Photo, drawing, website, painting, etc. that shows some aspect of this novel
 10. **Quicktime videoclip** of a movie scene that refers to *CITR* / Salinger.
 11. **Acrostic poem for Holden Caulfield** (write in first or third person). See examples on the website
 12. Do you have **another idea**? Let me know...
- You will be graded on how well this collection shows your understanding of the novel, creativity of the writer, and the care and effort you went through to write.
 - Be sure that you have a title page and table of contents.
 - **Due Monday, 4/26 (4/27); 50 points**

Catcher in Culture

If you are interested to see how this novel affected culture, you may choose to complete this optional assignment. Your task is to show a reference or connection to *Catcher in the Rye* from culture today. This can be in the form of a film clip that references Holden, a song, a cartoon, or a news clipping that makes such a connection. You will present it to class on your assigned day. Please, no Salinger biographies copied from the internet. **20 points (extra credit)**

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS - *The Catcher in the Rye*

Please neatly write your responses on a separate paper

Chapters 1-4

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

Chapters 5-9

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

Chapters 10-13

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

Chapters 14-17

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

Chapters 18-21

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

Chapters 22-26

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

The Catcher in the Rye
Characterization
English 5-6
Mr. Coia

A careful reader can often learn what type of person a character is in a novel by noticing the things with which he or she is associated. Match the character with the object, then briefly say what this object shows the reader about the character.

1. Holden Caulfield Object: _____

This shows _____

2. Robery Ackley Object: _____

This shows _____

3. Ward Stradlater Object: _____

This shows _____

4. Mr. Antolini Object: _____

This shows _____

5. Carl Luce Object: _____

This shows _____

6. Jane Gallagher Object: _____

This shows _____

7. Ernie Object: _____

This shows _____

8. Allie Caulfield Object: _____

This shows _____

9. Phoebe Caulfield Object: _____

This shows _____

Objects:

a clean, green dress
baseball glove
sex stories

piano
hunting hat
nail clipper

a dirty razor
a slip of paper with a quotation
kings in checkers

Ideas for a Showcase Paper or for further study

Interpretation

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

Critical

6. Describe Holden's relationship with Phoebe.
7. Are Holden's actions believably motivated? Explain why or why not.
8. What is the problem with Holden's life?
9. Characterize J.D. Salinger's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the novel?
10. Holden often says he is going to call someone, but he doesn't do it because he isn't in the mood. What could these uncompleted calls symbolize?
11. Why can Holden honestly communicate with Phoebe when he cannot with anyone else?
12. What does Holden have against the movies?
13. Explain how the title relates to the events of the novel and the themes of *The Catcher in the Rye*.
14. Compare and contrast Jane Gallagher and Sally Hayes.
15. Compare and contrast Holden's real world with his fantasy world.
16. Are the characters in *The Catcher in the Rye* stereotypes? If so, explain why J.D. Salinger used stereotypes. If not, explain how the characters merit individuality.
17. Why does Holden keep thinking about Jane Gallagher?
18. Why does Holden want to know about the ducks in Central Park?
19. Why did Holden start to cry when Phoebe gave him her Christmas money?
20. What effect did Allie's death have on Holden?
21. Psychoanalyze Holden. What is at the root of his problems?
22. Why can't anyone help Holden?
23. For what was Holden looking during his four-day "vacation"?
24. What kinds of books did Holden like? Why?
25. Discuss the importance and the role of these characters in *The Catcher in the Rye*: Mr. Spencer, Stradlater, Jane Gallagher, Allie, Ernie's mother, Lillian Simmons, Sunny, Sally Hayes, Maurice, the nuns, Carl Luce James Castle, and Mr. Antolini.
26. Explain the symbolic importance of the broken record, the ducks, Grand Central Station, and the hunting hat.

Critical/Personal Response

27. Is Holden a phony?
 28. In Chapter 22, Holden asks, "How would you know you weren't being a phony?" Why would Holden think this would be a problem for someone?
 29. Was Holden a coward?
 30. Do you think the sibling relationship between Holden and Phoebe is realistic? Explain why or why not.
 31. Holden thinks most people are a pain in the neck. Is Holden a pain in the neck, too?
 32. Is Holden a sympathetic character? (Do we sympathize with him?)
 33. Why do you suppose Phoebe decided to go with Holden and not return to school?
- The Catcher in the Rye* Extra Discussion Questions page 3
34. Is Holden "normal"? Do you think other students at Pencey felt the same way he did?

The Catcher in the Rye
Post-Reading Activity
English 5-6
Mr. Coia

1. After reading the novel, which of the following best describes how you feel: angry, awed, amazed, baffled, disgusted, disturbed, dissatisfied, irritated, joyous, uneasy, untouched, sad?

Elaborate on your answer.

2. Complete any four of the following statements with a minimum of three additional sentences each, reacting to what you have read.

- a. If I were in this story, I would/wouldn't have...
- b. I really admire the character of _____ because...
- c. I realized...
- d. I can't really understand...
- e. I did/didn't like the way...
- f. The character of _____ reminds me of myself when...
- g. I know the feeling of....
- h. I begin to think of...
- i. The *biggest* thing that the character of _____ learned in this story was...
- j. The *most* important lesson that I, the reader, learned in this story was...

3. Which of the following descriptive terms makes you think of one of the characters in the story or novel we just read: lonely, angry, helpless, uncaring, helpful, wise, responsible, unselfish?

Describe the character and explain why you think this character feels or personifies this emotion.



Parent Permission Slip Viewing *Igby Goes Down*, Rated R

For more information on the movie, visit <http://imdb.com/title/tt0280760/>

Dear Parents,

I am planning on showing the class *Igby Goes Down* as a culmination to our study of J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*. It is rated R due to language, sexuality, and drug content. [I will block out the two scenes with nudity.]

I am choosing to show this movie because it shows Igby, a Holden Caulfield-like teenager who struggles with fear, isolation, and acceptance. I feel that these are some of the issues many teens today consider. Perhaps this is why teaching *The Catcher in the Rye* is usually a successful endeavor.

Please understand that this viewing is not a time-filler or even simply an end-of-the-unit break; rather, I believe that the film will solidify students' understand of the novel, and perhaps force students to make further connections to it. After the film, students will compare the two characters, Igby and Holden, in an essay.

I approach this subject with great respect for you and the choice you make in regards to your child. If you would rather have your child not view this, I understand completely and will offer an alternate assignment.

Please contact me if you have further questions on this.

Sincerely,

Ron Coia
Language Arts Teacher
503 353-5810 ext. 8013
mrcoia@hotmail.com

- I **give** permission to watch *Igby Goes Down* in Mr. Coia's English class.
- I **do not** give permission to watch *Igby Goes Down*. Please offer alternate assignment.

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____