The Catcher in the Rye
20th Century Literature

Name ____________________________ Per ___ Date _______

Study Guide

CHAPTER 1 (1-6)
1. What kind of school does Holden attend?
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2. What was Holden’s brother D.B. doing at the time?
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3. What did Holden leave on the subway and what does he feel about it?
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CHAPTER 2 (6-16)
4. What was the only class that Holden passed during the most recent grading period as opposed to those he did not pass?
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5. What did Mr. Spencer make Holden read to him?
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CHAPTER 3 (16-26)
6. What kind of hat did Holden buy in New York and what was his rationale for purchasing it?
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7. Describe Ackley, briefly.

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CHAPTER 4  (26-35)
8. How did Holden know Stradlater's date, Jane Gallagher?

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CHAPTER 5  (35-39)
9. What did Holden write a composition about?

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CHAPTER 6  (40-46)
10. What did Holden do with the composition?

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11. Why?

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12. Why did Stradlater punch Holden?

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CHAPTER 7  (46-52)
13. Where did Holden go immediately after the fight?

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14. When does Holden say, “Sleep tight, ya morons!”?

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CHAPTER 8  (53-58)

15. How does Holden get to New York?

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16. How does Holden lie about Ernie Morrow to his mother?

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17. What kind of operation does Holden tell Mrs. Morrow he has to have?

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CHAPTER 9  (59-66)

18. What does Holden first want to do when he gets to Penn Station?

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19. What does Holden see out of the hotel window?

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20. Why does Holden call Faith Cavendish?

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CHAPTER 10  (66-76)
21. What does Holden admire about the blond (of the three girls) in the bar?

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22. Who were the three girls looking for in the bar?

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CHAPTER 11  (76-80)
23. Holden recalls a summer with Jane and the time he kissed her when she was crying. Why was she crying?

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CHAPTER 12  (81-87)
24. When Holden asks Horowitz the cab driver about ducks in the park, what does Horowitz talk about instead?

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CHAPTER 13  (88-98)
25. How old is Sunny?

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26. What excuse does Holden give her for declining?

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CHAPTER 14  (98-104)
27. Why does Maurice come to Holden’s room?

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28. Why does Maurice punch Holden?

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29. Why does Holden decide not to take his own life?

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CHAPTER 15  (105-113)
30. Why does Holden apologize to the two nuns?

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CHAPTER 16  (113-122)
31. For whom does Holden buy a record? What is the song?

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CHAPTER 17  (123-134)
32. After they see a play and go skating, what does Holden ask Sally to do?

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33. What does Holden call Sally?

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CHAPTER 18  (135-141)
34. Where does Holden go to kill time before he meets Carl Luce?

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CHAPTER 19  (141-149)
35. What does Holden want to talk to Carl Luce about (What Luce calls “a typical Holden Caulfield conversation”)?

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36. What does Carl Luce recommend to Holden?

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CHAPTER 20  (149-157)
37. Who does Holden call from the bar?

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38. Where does he go at the end of the chapter?

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CHAPTER 21  (157-166)
39. In whose room did Phoebe sleep?

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40. Why did Phoebe hit Holden?

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CHAPTER 22  (166-174)
41. When Phoebe asks Holden to tell her one thing that he likes, what does he tell her he does like?

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The Catcher in the Rye / Study Guide
42. Why did James Castle jump out the window at Elkton Hills?
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43. Holden tells Phoebe that he wants to be a "catcher in the rye": what does he mean by this?
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CHAPTER 23  (174-180)
44. What are Holden and Phoebe doing just before their mother arrives home?
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45. What does Phoebe do that makes Holden cry just before he leaves?
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CHAPTER 24  (180-193)
46. Mr. Antolini Tells Holden that he is "headed for a fall." What does Mr. Antolini mean by this?
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47. What does Mr. Antolini tell Holden that will help him?
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48. What exactly did Holden awake to find Mr. Antolini doing?
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CHAPTER 25  (194-213)
49. Where did Holden sleep?

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50. Why does Holden go to Phoebe’s school?

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51. Where does Holden wait for Phoebe?

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52. What is Phoebe riding at the end of the chapter? Why is this important to Holden?

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CHAPTER 26  (213-214)

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