

The Catcher in the Rye—Literary Road Map Chapters 1-4

Vocabulary

hemorrhage (n.) massive, heavy bleeding	foils (n.) swords
grippe (n.) flu	gore (n.) blood
sadist (n.) torturer	innumerable (adj.) countless
falsetto (adj., n.) high voice	exhibitionist (n.) show-off
qualms (n.) misgivings	unscrupulous (adj.) unprincipled
pacifist (n.) peace lover	crude (adj.) lacking tact or taste
compulsory (adj.) necessary	rostrum (n.) a platform or podium

Pick three words and write sentences for each.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Literary Terms

symbol—something that is itself but also stands for something else

motif—an image, metaphor, or symbol that appears over and over again in a work

Essential Questions for Thought (answer in your head)

- What does it mean to be true to yourself?
- What does it mean to be a good person?

Getting Things Straight

Ch. 1

1. What does Holden mean when he says that his brother D.B. is out in Hollywood "being a prostitute" (2)?
2. Where is Holden as the story begins? (1)
3. What is Pencey Prep, and why does Holden dislike it? (2)
4. How did Holden let the fencing team down? (3)

5. Why was Holden being kicked out of Pencey Prep? (4)
6. What kind of health does Holden appear to be in? (5)

Ch. 2

1. Who is Mr. Spencer and why does Holden visit him? (8)
2. What does Spencer do that particularly annoyed Holden?
3. What can you infer about Holden's character through his note to Mr. Spencer?
4. What does Holden give us as the reason for "leaving" Elkton Hills? (13)
5. What is he wondering about in terms of the ducks? (13)

Ch. 3

1. What does Holden mean when he says, "I'm quite illiterate, but I read a lot?" Give examples of what he reads. (18)
2. Who is Ackley? Describe him. (19)
3. What does Ackley do that annoys Holden? (22)

Ch. 4

1. Who is Stradlater? Why does Holden refer to him as a "secret slob"? What does he look like?
2. What point does Holden try to make about people when he talks about Stradlater and the "commas" and Ackley's description of the basketball player?
3. Why did it make Holden nervous that Stradlater was going out with Jane Gallagher?

Delving In
