

Chapter 1

1. Who is the narrator? What does he promise to tell the reader? What are your impressions of the narrator?
2. When does the story take place? What is Holden's purpose in telling the story?
3. Who is D.B? Why does the narrator call him a "prostitute"?
4. What is Pencey Prep?
5. Why is the narrator leaving Pencey? How does he feel about leaving?

Chapter 2

1. Who is Mr. Spencer? Why does Holden visit him?
2. How does Holden describe himself, physically?
3. Why does Mr. Spencer read the essay about Egyptians? How does Holden react to hearing the paper read?
4. What are Whooton and Elkton Hills? Why did Holden leave them?

➤ *Could Holden Caulfield be a friend of yours? Please explain your answer in your WNB.*

Chapter 3

1. What did Holden buy in New York after losing the foils?
2. Name three authors whose work Holden has read. What kind of books does he like to read?
3. Who is Ackley? Does the narrator seem to like him? Would you?
4. Who is Stradlater? Briefly describe him. Does he remind you of anyone you know?

➤ *Draw a picture of Ackley in your WNB.*

Chapter 4

1. What favor does Stradlater ask of the narrator?
2. Who is Stradlater's date?
3. How does Holden happen to know Jane?
4. On **page 27**, Holden says, "You take a very handsome guy... and they're always asking you to do them a big favor." According to Holden, why is this so and do you agree?
5. What is the favor Stradlater asks of Holden? Why does Holden agree to grant the favor?
6. What is Holden's opinion of his own skill at writing? What does he mean about being annoyed when "you're good at writing compositions and somebody starts talking about commas"? (28)

Chapter 5

1. Where does Holden go with Mal on Saturday night and why does he invite Ackley along? What does that show you about Holden?
2. What topic does Holden choose for the composition he is writing for Stradlater?
3. Who was Allie? What sort of person was he? How did Holden feel about him?
4. In what year did Allie die? How much time has passed? How old is Holden now? How old would Allie have been?

Chapter 6

1. What is Holden worrying when Stradlater returns from his date with Jane?
2. Why doesn't Stradlater like the composition? What happens?
3. Why does Holden fight with Stradlater? Do you think Holden overreacts?

Chapter 7

1. Why doesn't Holden sleep in Ely's empty bed in Ackley's room instead of leaving in the middle of the night? Where does he decide to go?
2. What does Holden mean when he calls Ackley a "prince...gentleman...and a scholar"? (47-48)

☞ On page 52, Holden mentions that the skates his mother gave him made him sad. "Almost every time somebody gives me a present, it ends up making me sad." In your WNB, describe a time when you were disappointed with a gift you received.

Vocabulary (chapters 1-7): Look up and add to your WNB.

1. hemorrhages (1)
2. ostracized (3)
3. gripe (3)-- suitcase
4. chiffonier (11)
5. compulsory (17)
6. falsetto (23)
7. ironical (28)
8. exhibitionist (29)
9. halitosis (39)
10. unscrupulous (40)
11. pacifist (46)
12. lavish (52)