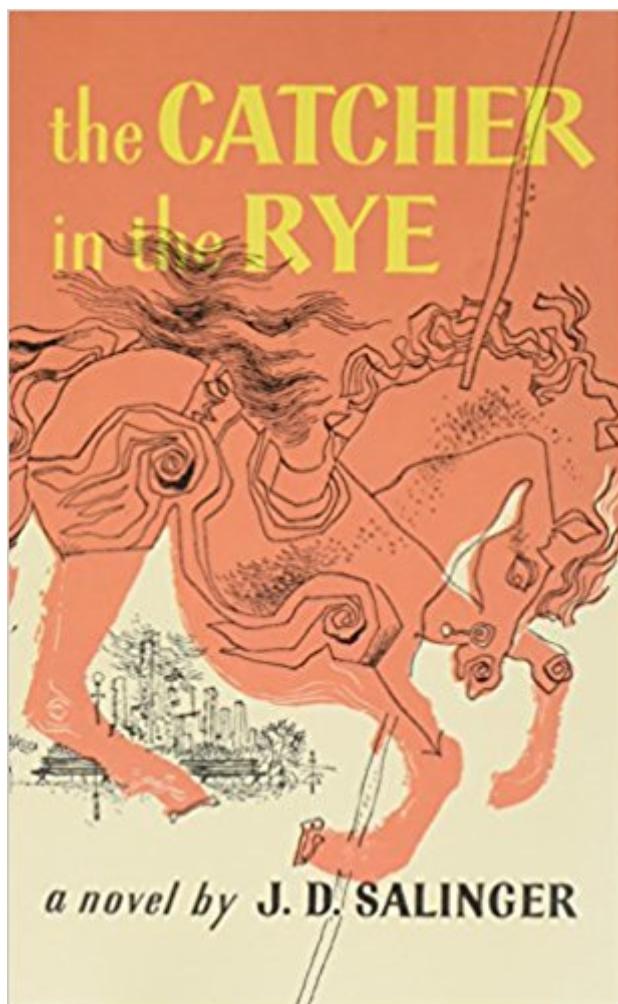


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The Catcher In The Rye



Synopsis

Anyone who has read J.D. Salinger's New Yorker stories ? particularly A Perfect Day for Bananafish, Uncle Wiggily in Connecticut, The Laughing Man, and For Esme ? With Love and Squalor, will not be surprised by the fact that his first novel is fully of children. 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.

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Customer Reviews

Since his debut in 1951 as The Catcher in the Rye, Holden Caulfield has been synonymous with "cynical adolescent." Holden narrates the story of a couple of days in his sixteen-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school, in a slang that sounds edgy even today and keeps this novel on banned book lists. It begins, "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. In the first place, that stuff bores me, and in the second place, my parents would have about two hemorrhages apiece if I told anything pretty personal about them." His constant wry observations about what he encounters, from teachers to phonies (the two of course are not mutually exclusive) capture the essence of the eternal teenage experience of alienation. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Novel by J.D. Salinger, published in 1951. The influential and widely acclaimed story details the two days in the life of 16-year-old Holden Caulfield after he has been expelled from prep school. Confused and disillusioned, he searches for truth and rails against the "phoniness" of the adult world. He ends up exhausted and emotionally ill, in a psychiatrist's office. After he recovers from his breakdown, Holden relates his experiences to the reader. -- The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature

This book was banned when I was in school and I've always wanted to read it. There is some profanity that I don't care for but all in all it's great coming of age story about a young man going through trying times and suffering from some mental health issues. I was happy that it had a good ending!

The Catcher in the Rye is a story about the adventures of a young man named Holden after he is kicked out of his school, Pencey Prep. He struggles throughout the book on learning the concept of growing up and letting others grow up too. Through these adventures, he learns valuable lessons on what is right and what is wrong through trial and error. At the end of the book, he finds inner peace through acceptance about the world and seems to be headed toward a hopeful future. I think the Catcher in the Rye is a book that subtly introduces ideas through symbols and humor. Holden never directly states his own opinions about reality and innocence which made the book more interesting to read. There was a lot of profanity in this book, but it is understandable considering all the inner turmoil Holden faces and this book is also in first person so the reader reads exactly what Holden thinks. I also liked that Salinger left the reader to wonder what would happen to Holden at the end of the book instead of telling the reader exactly what will happen to him. Overall the Catcher in the Rye is a very meaningful book that conveys Salinger's opinion on reality once the reader looks beyond the superficial meaning of the words.

Catcher in the Rye is a book about a teenage boy named, Holden. Catcher in The Rye features Holden's life, starting from the expulsion from Pencey Prep, a prep school in Pennsylvania. Holden is doesn't want to go home, because since Pencey is one of many schools that he has been expelled from, his mom will be very mad. So suddenly, he takes a train into New York, and spends a few days in the hotel. Just like any other teenager, Holden experiences pain, loneliness, isolation. During his visit for few days at New York, he encounters with many things such as prostitutes, and bars. Although Holden sounds like an expert in this field, he is actually a virgin. Holden is 16 years old, confused, lonely, and depressed teenager. There are lots of stream of consciousness to provide many obstacles in life. He always "feels sorry" for people, Holden usually say things that might be too honest to the point that it's offensive. He also doesn't filter words as well. There were also many symbols in the book such as the hunting hat, and children. Overall, Catcher in The Rye is appealing, and Holden's humor was amazing. I recommend reading this book, because it is quite interesting and fun to read.

When I first read "Catcher in the Rye," the one thing I noticed was the parallel between Holden and my own life. I live in Los Angeles, land of many "phonies"--the same type that Holden appeared to be criticizing. Holden wants to be a genuine human being, one who can actually be himself. Instead of playing a role in life, Holden wants to live life. It is quite unfortunate that the life Holden wants to lead is not really achievable. We all have roles to play, whether we want to play them or not. Witness the scene where Holden calls up a prostitute -- and, in Holden's character, he does not play the role he's supposed to lead -- where he enganges in sexual behavior with her. Instead, Holden wants to learn about the prostitute. He cares for her. He wants to talk to her. Discuss things. Isn't that strange? Totally out of character. It is not what one would expect. That's Holden. Perhaps one of the biggest problem, though, is that people who do not want to be a "phony" -- those who would prefer to, in Thoreau's words, "march to their own drummer," have a difficult time. Holden doesn't have many friends. He seems like a drifter. Doesn't really do well in school. Is this a lesson to be learned? Are the bums on the street former Holden's, unable to adjust to reality, drifting to find their authenticity somewhere in the world? It is certainly possible. On the prose: The prose is wonderful. Very readable, as many have mentioned. It's always very inexpensive and I recommend that everyone should have one copy in their book shelf. -- Michael Gordon, from Los Angeles.

What can really be said about one of the classic works of American Literature? It is an incredible

coming of age story that has been taught in schools for decades. As far as the copy goes, it came in the condition I expected. It arrived fast. It is a great book.

In the sixties, I had the opportunity to use this novel with secondary English students. It was the first novel that gave them an opportunity to have a character really speak to them. Though they were southerners and/or south westerners and not familiar with a northern urban setting, they still found much to feel in common with Holden, especially, the males. After 50+ years as an educator and social worker, I think that he still speaks to them. I definitely will pass this on to a young person soon.

Teenager Holden Caulfield has just been expelled from yet another prep school for failing his classes and having a really bad attitude. Here he recounts his adventures and observations during a weekend on his own in New York City. I remember being quite shocked at Holden's anti-social thoughts and non-stop profanity and not liking him at all when I first read this book. It was a pleasure to reread it forty years later and find that my feelings for him had changed a lot; now I find him a bright, charming, and pitiable combination of the social misfit from "Napoleon Dynamite," the angry young man from "Rebel Without a Cause," and a bit of Eddie Haskell, too. His penchant for vulgarity and manic emotionality remind me of a scared puppy who's all bark and no bite; he's in desperate need of attention and affection and luckily, he gets it. This classic character study of a troubled boy is highly recommended for mature readers.

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