

***The Catcher in the Rye* – Journal Prompts**

Chapters 1 / 2

First impressions:

- 1) Describe Holden's personality to someone who knows nothing about the novel. Be descriptive in your writing.
- 2) Do you like Holden? Why? Why not?

Chapters 3 / 4

- 1) Without giving their name, describe some qualities of one of your good friends. Include some of their most memorable physical and personality-based traits.
- 2) Now provide the same description for someone you don't get along with so well.
- 3) Which was easier to write and why?

Chapters 6 / 7

- 1) Holden says he is a "pacifist." What does that mean, and do you agree that he is/is not? Are you a pacifist?
- 2) What is Holden's final goodbye to Pencey Prep?
- 3) Why do you think Holden was crying when he left?

Chapter 8

- 1) Lying: Is it ever ok to lie? Why/why not? If so, give an example.

Chapter 11

- 1) Why do you think Holden liked Jane?
- 2) What qualities do you look for in someone you would like to date?

Chapters 12 / 13

- 1) (BEFORE READING) Define hypocritical
- 2) (BEFORE READING) Give an example from your life when you have done or said something hypocritical.
- 3) (AFTER READING) Provide two examples from chapters 12 and 13 when Holden does or says something hypocritical. Explain how Holden is contradicting himself.

Chapters 16 / 17

- 1) (AFTER READING CHAPTER 16) Write about a place that hasn't changed, but seems different because YOU have changed.
- 2) Is your idea of the perfect future and/or "the one" closer to Holden's or Sally's? Explain what you want.

Chapters 18 / 19

- 1) Do you think Holden is mature or immature? Explain your answer.

Chapter 20

- 1) On page 150, Holden says he is, "concealing that I was a wounded sonuvabitch." What would does he have?
- 2) How is he trying to cover his wounds?

Chapters 22 / 23

- 1) Would you rather die for a cause and be remembered forever? Or live your life for a cause in obscurity?