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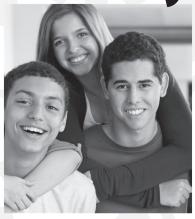
Reading

Reading Informational Texts Reading Literature

















The Catcher in the Rye

BY J. D. SALINGER



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Procedures for Small Group Work		
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All references come from the Little, Brown and Company Edition of *The Catcher in the Rye*, published 1951.

The Catcher in the Rye

Name:	Date:
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Introduction

Theme

Objective: Recognizing emerging themes

Activity

Holden Caulfield, the main character and narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye*, has been described as "yet another quizzical adolescent, scornful of what he does see and quite sure there is even more to unearth and condemn....He serves the author's purpose: to scrutinize the banalities and cruelties that the rest of us, grown up and so sure of our right to preach to children, often make a point of ignoring or justifying." Divide the class into small groups. Each group should select a different topic from the list that follows.

In small groups, discuss your chosen topic from the list below. After taking a close look, make a list of all the "banalities and cruelties" that you associate with the topic. Include specific examples for each point on your list.

Topics to Examine:

- The way parents react to the failure of their children
- The attitude of teachers toward students who fail
- The attitude of handsome, athletic males towards females
- The methods school administrators use in dealing with failing students
- The attitudes of social misfits towards others
- The attitude of wealthy private school students and faculty
- The way students who are failing react to their failure
- The differences between private and public schools

The Catcher in the Rye

Name:	Date:
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Chapters 1 - 7

Satire

Objective: Understanding satire as a device for characterization

Activity I

Some readers are amused by Holden's satirical presentation of people. Concrete, detailed descriptions of the way people look and act are part of his description. Often, aspects of the people are exaggerated or oversimplified by Holden.

- Spencer
- Ackley
- Stradlater
- Jane
- Allie
- •Dr. Thurmer
- Headmaster—Mr. Haas
- Holden

Use the following page to take a close look at the assigned character. You are to take the character your group is assigned and answer the questions on the chart.

The Catcher in the Rye

Name:	Date:
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Chapters 8 - 15

Literary Techniques

Objective: Recognizing literary techniques

Activity

In small groups, complete the following chart by finding a quotation that illustrates the literary technique.

After work is completed, each group should give its example for the first technique, then each give its example for the second, and so on. After each set of examples, the literary technique can be discussed further by the entire class.

The Catcher in the Rye

Name:		Date:
	Chapters 16 - 17	
	Theme	

Objectives: Understanding themes

Inferring meaning from what a character says and does

Relating literature to life

Activity I

Throughout the novel, Holden complains about people who are "phonies." In Chapter 16, Holden calls Sally "the queen of the phonies." Holden's description of the young man Sally talks to in Chapter 17 is especially biting.

- 1. In small groups, list the characteristics of Sally and the young man in Chapter 17 that annoy Holden and make them "phony" in his mind.
- 2. Using your list, collaboratively write Holden's definition of a phony. Use quotations from Holden's descriptions of Sally and the young man to illustrate your points.

THE PHONIES CHART

Sally	Young Man

Definition of a Phony:

The Catcher in the Rye

Name:	Date:
1 tallic:	

Chapters 15 - End

Allusion II

Objectives: Interpreting a character's internal conflict from his or her actions and statements Relating literature to life

Activity I

Divide the class into small groups. Holden realizes that he is depressed or that he is at least suffering from some type of emotional instability.

- Complete the Signs of Holden's Emotional Instability chart on the next page to prepare your explanation of how Holden's actions and statements support the idea that he is unstable. Refer to the text and include quotations.
- Each group should present its explanation of Holden's mental state to the class.