

**OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 10 ENGLISH/HOMEWORK 4****NAME (FIRST AND LAST):**\_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE:**\_\_\_\_\_**DAY/TIME/TEACHER:**\_\_\_\_\_

**After reading the first five chapters of *The Catcher in the Rye*, read the following summary to refresh your memory of the events that have unfolded so far.**

Holden Caulfield writes his story from a rest home to which he has been sent for therapy. He refuses to talk about his early life, mentioning only that his brother D. B. is a Hollywood writer. He hints that he is bitter because D. B. forsakes a career in serious literature for the wealth and fame of the movies. He then begins to tell the story of his breakdown, beginning with his departure from Pencey Prep, a famous school he attended in Agerstown, Pennsylvania.

Holden's academic career at Pencey Prep has been marred by his refusal to work hard. He has been forbidden to return to the school after the fall term. He is full of contempt for the prep school, but he says goodbye to Mr. Spencer, a former history teacher who is very old and ill with the flu. He sprints to Spencer's house. In his sickroom, Spencer lectures Holden about his academic failures. Not wanting to be lectured, Holden interrupts Spencer and leaves, returning to his dorm room before dinner.

Holden lives in Ossenburger Hall. In his room, Holden sits and reads Isak Dinesen's *Out of Africa* while wearing his new hunting hat, a flamboyant red cap. He is interrupted by Ackley, a student who lives next door. According to Holden, Ackley is a supremely irritating classmate who constantly barges into the room, exhibits disgusting personal habits and poor hygiene, and always acts as if he's doing others a favor by spending time with them. Ackley refuses to take Holden's hints that he ought to leave. When Holden's handsome and popular roommate, Stradlater, enters, Ackley, who hates Stradlater, quickly returns to his own room. Stradlater mentions that he has a date waiting for him but wants to shave.

Holden goes to the bathroom with Stradlater and talks to him while he shaves. The two joke around, then Stradlater asks Holden to write an English composition for him, because his date won't leave him with time to do it on his own. Holden asks about the date and learns that Stradlater is taking out a girl Holden knows, Jane Gallagher. Holden clearly has strong feelings for Jane. He is displeased that Stradlater, one of the few sexually experienced boys at Pencey, is taking Jane on a date. After Stradlater leaves, Holden is tormented by thoughts of Jane and Stradlater. Ackley barges in again.

After a dry and unappetizing steak dinner in the dining hall, Holden gets into a snowball fight with some of the other Pencey boys. He and his friend Mal Brossard decide to take a bus into Agerstown to see a movie. Ackley goes with them. Because Ackley and Brossard have already seen the film, the trio simply eats some burgers, plays a little pinball, and heads back to Pencey.

Back at Pencey, Holden works on the English assignment for Stradlater. Stradlater had said the composition was supposed to be a simple description of a room, a house, or something similarly straightforward. But Holden cannot think of anything to say about a house or a room, so he writes about a baseball glove that his brother Allie used to copy poems onto in green ink.

Several years before, Allie died of leukemia. Holden clearly still feels Allie's loss strongly. He gives a brief description of Allie, mentioning his bright red hair. *(Adapted from SparksNotes.)*

**Answer the following general questions. Write complete sentences.**

1. Where is Holden Caulfield writing his story?

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2. Which prep school does Holden attend before his expulsion?

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3. Who is Mr. Spenser, and how is he related to Holden?

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4. Who is Stradlater, and what does he want Holden to do for him?

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5. Who is Allie, and why does Holden feel a great sense of loss?

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## READING COMPREHENSION SELECTION 1

The following passage is the first paragraph of Chapter One in *The Catcher in the Rye*. Read the passage before answering the questions that follow.

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 bored me, and in the second place, my parents would have about two hemorrhages apiece if I told anything pretty personal about them. They are touchy about anything like that, especially my father. They're *nice* and all - I'm not saying that - but they're also touchy as hell. Besides, I'm not going to tell you my whole goddam autobiography or anything. I'll just tell you about this madman stuff that happened to me around last Christmas just before I got pretty run-down and had to come out here and take it easy. I mean that's all I told D.B. about, and he's my *brother* and all. He's in Hollywood. That isn't too far from this crumbly place, and he comes over and visits me practically every week end. He's going to drive home when I go home next month maybe. He just got a Jaguar. One of those little English jobs that can do around two hundred miles an hour. It cost him damn near four thousand bucks. He's got a lot of dough, now. He didn't *use* to. He used to be just a regular writer, when he was home. He wrote this terrific book of short stories, *The Secret Goldfish*, in case you never heard of him. The best one in it was "The Secret Goldfish." It was about this little kid that wouldn't let anybody look at his goldfish because he'd bought it with his own money. It killed me. Now he's out in Hollywood, D.B., being a prostitute. If there's one thing I hate, it's the movies. Don't even mention them to me.

**Answer the following questions. The clues are found in the passage above. Use complete sentences that contain subjects and verbs.**

1. David Copperfield is the main character from Charles Dickens' novel, *David Copperfield*. The novel was published in 1850. It traces the life of David Copperfield from childhood to maturity. Dickens' pseudo-autobiography portrays him as a determined person who has an undisciplined heart. Now that you know something about *David Copperfield*, could you explain why Holden does not want to get into "that David Copperfield kind of crap"?

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2. Holden says that his brother, D.B. has a lot of “dough” now. What does the colloquial word “dough” mean?

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3. Why does D.B. have a lot of money now?

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4. When Holden says that his brother is “out in Hollywood, being a prostitute,” he does not literally mean that D.B. is a prostitute. What does Holden really mean, and why does he use this word?

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5. It seems that Holden is familiar with Charles Dickens’ novel, *David Copperfield*. In addition, his brother was a short story writer before he becomes involved in Hollywood movie production. Later, we find out that Allie, Holden’s late brother, wrote poems on his baseball glove. We also find out that Holden’s sister, Phoebe, keeps a diary. The Caulfield children seem to have one thing in common. What is it?

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6. What is your impression of J.D. Salinger’s writing style? How would you describe it? Why do you think he chose to write in such a way?

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**READING COMPREHENSION SELECTION 2**

**The following dialogue between Holden and his former history teacher, Mr Spencer, is found in Chapter 2 of *The Catcher in the Rye*. Please respond to the questions that follow.**

"How do you feel about all this, boy? I'd be very interested to know. Very interested."

"You mean about my flunking out of Pencey and all?" I said. I sort of wished he'd cover up his bumpy chest. It wasn't such a beautiful view.

"If I'm not mistaken, I believe you also had some difficulty at the Whooton School and at Elkton Hills." He didn't say it just sarcastic, but sort of nasty, too.

"I didn't have too much difficulty at Elkton Hills," I told him. "I didn't exactly flunk out or anything. I just quit, sort of."

"Why, may I ask?"

"Why? Oh, well it's a long story, sir. I mean it's pretty complicated." I didn't feel like going into the whole thing with him. He wouldn't have understood it anyway. It wasn't up his alley at all. One of the biggest reasons I left Elkton Hills was because I was surrounded by phonies. That's all. They were coming in the goddam window. For instance, they had this headmaster, Mr. Haas, that was the phoniest bastard I ever met in my life. Ten times worse than old Thurmer. On Sundays, for instance, old Haas went around shaking hands with everybody's parents when they drove up to school. He'd be charming as hell and all. Except if some boy had little old funny-looking parents. You should've seen the way he did with my roommate's parents. I mean if a boy's mother was sort of fat or corny- looking or something, and if somebody's father was one of those guys that wear those suits with very big shoulders and corny black-and-white shoes, then old Haas would just shake hands with them and give them a phony smile and then he'd go talk, for maybe a half an hour, with somebody else's parents. I can't stand that stuff. It drives me crazy. It makes me so depressed I go crazy. I hated that goddam Elkton Hills.

Old Spencer asked me something then, but I didn't hear him. I was thinking about old Haas. "What, sir?" I said.

"Do you have any particular qualms about leaving Pencey?"

"Oh, I have a few qualms, all right. Sure . . . but not too many. Not yet, anyway. I guess it hasn't really hit me yet. It takes things a while to hit me. All I'm doing right now is thinking about going home Wednesday. I'm a moron."

"Do you feel absolutely no concern for your future, boy?"

"Oh, I feel some concern for my future, all right. Sure. Sure, I do." I thought about it for a minute. "But not too much, I guess. Not too much, I guess."

"You will," old Spencer said. "You will, boy. You will when it's too late."

I didn't like hearing him say that. It made me sound dead or something. It was very depressing. "I guess I will," I said.

"I'd like to put some sense in that head of yours, boy. I'm trying to help you. I'm trying to help you, if I can."

He really was, too. You could see that. But it was just that we were too much on opposite sides of the pole, that's all. "I know you are, sir," I said. "Thanks a lot. No kidding. I appreciate it. I really do." I got up from the bed then. Boy, I couldn't've sat there another ten minutes to save my life. "The thing is, though, I have to get going now. I have quite a bit of equipment at the gym I have to get to take home with me. I really do." He looked up at me and started nodding again, with this very serious look on his face. I felt sorry as hell for him, all of a sudden. But I just couldn't hang around there any longer, the way we were on opposite sides of the pole, and the way he kept missing the bed whenever he chucked something at it, and his sad old bathrobe with his chest showing, and that grippy smell of Vicks Nose Drops all over the place. "Look, sir. Don't worry about me," I said. "I mean it. I'll be all right. I'm just going through a phase right now. Everybody goes through phases and all, don't they?"

1. Based on the selection or elsewhere in the novel, how would you describe Holden's personality? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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2. Do you think Mr. Spencer agrees with Holden that there are many phonies at Elkton Hills? Explain your answer.

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**VOCABULARY**

Select the definition that most nearly defines the given word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **monotonous**  
A. sounded or spoken in an unvarying tone  
B. expressing cutting, often ironic remarks intended to wound
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **innumerable**  
A. inferior in size  
B. too numerous to be counted
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **liberate**  
A. to exclude from a group  
B. to set free
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **rostrum**  
A. a dais, pulpit, or other elevated platform for public speaking  
B. contrary to what was expected or intended
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **compulsory**  
A. obligatory; required  
B. a viral infection similar to the flu
6. \_\_\_\_\_ **conceited**  
A. holding or characterized by an unduly high opinion of oneself; vain  
B. a dais, pulpit, or other elevated platform for public speaking
7. \_\_\_\_\_ **grippe**  
A. uneasiness about the fitness of an action  
B. a viral infection similar to the flu
8. \_\_\_\_\_ **sadistic**  
A. holding or characterized by an unduly high opinion of oneself; vain  
B. deriving pleasure, or the tendency to derive pleasure, from cruelty
9. \_\_\_\_\_ **exhibitionist**  
A. someone who deliberately behaves so as to attract attention  
B. deriving pleasure, or the tendency to derive pleasure, from cruelty
10. \_\_\_\_\_ **ironical**  
A. contrary to what was expected or intended  
B. too numerous to be counted

## GRAMMAR

### COMPOUND SUBJECTS AND PREDICATES

- A **compound subject** is made up of two or more simple subjects, usually joined together by and.  
EXAMPLE: Sam and Harry scored high on the test.
- A **compound predicate** is made up of two or more simple predicates, usually joined together by and.  
EXAMPLE: Madeleine turned and ran.

**A. Draw a vertical line between the complete subject and the complete predicate in each sentence. Underline a compound subject once. Underline a compound predicate twice.**

1. The worldwide disappearance of frogs disturbs and worries me.
2. My partner and I want to know the truth.
3. Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver have their own NHL hockey teams.
4. I snowboard in winter and skateboard in summer.
5. Jaffra's wallet and car keys were stolen.
6. Lester Pearson won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1957 and became prime minister in 1963.
7. Chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, and baboons are all primates.
8. My brother asked my best friend out to a movie and forgot to show up.
9. The ice storm knocked down the power lines and left us in darkness.
10. My room and her room are right next to each other.
11. A whole bottle of detergent fell into the machine and spilled on the clothes.
12. My fingers and toes are frozen solid.

**B. Write two sentences about events or characters in *The Catcher in the Rye*. The sentences should contain compound subjects.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



C. Write two sentences about events or characters in *The Catcher in the Rye*. The sentences should contain compound predicates.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## DIRECT OBJECTS

- The **direct object** tells who or what receives the action of the verb. The direct object is a noun or pronoun that follows an action verb.

EXAMPLES: Kiwi fruit contains **vitamin C**.

Where did you put **my glasses**?

### A. Underline the verb in each sentence, and then circle the direct object.

1. That guitarist has sold her CDs in almost every country on earth.
2. Daniel David Moses writes beautiful poetry.
3. Do you trust the information on that Web site?
4. The municipal government provides services to homeowners.
5. Our property taxes finance these services.
6. Why does Council oppose the development of a skateboard park?
7. Construction of the recreation centre will take months.
8. Where did you buy that unusual green hat?
9. I'm going to watch the hockey game on TV tonight.
10. Help your brother with his homework, please.

B. Write one sentence about a moment or a character in *The Catcher in the Rye* that contains a direct object. Circle the direct object.

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**THE END**

**Remember to read Chapter 6 to 10 of *The Catcher in the Rye* for the next class.**