

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 10 ENGLISH/HOMEWORK 7

NAME (FIRST AND LAST): _____ GRADE: _____

DAY/TIME/TEACHER: _____

Announcement” The midterm assessment will be on Class 9. Please review all the handouts and homework you have received. In addition, prepare for these three questions: (1) How would another character in the novel perceive Holden Caulfield? (2) Are there symbols in *The Catcher in the Rye*? What do they represent? (3) Why does the novel invite readers to think about “phoniness”?

After reading from chapter 16 to 20 of *The Catcher in the Rye*, read the following summary to refresh your memory of the events that have unfolded so far. (Adapted from Litcharts and Sparksnotes)

Holden buys a children's record for Phoebe and thinks about how Phoebe always understands what he's really saying. While passing a church he overhears a poor little boy singing, "If a body catch a body coming through the rye." The boy's voice and innocent image makes him happy. He calls Jane, but hangs up when her mother answers.

Holden buys theatre tickets for his date with Sally, even though he hates actors in particular and dislikes the theatre in general. Holden hates things that aren't what they seem, including actors.

Holden then heads over to the Mall, a part of the park where Phoebe often roller-skates on Sundays. He meets a girl who thinks Phoebe's at the Museum of Natural History with her class. Though it soon becomes clear that the class trip was Saturday, Holden walks to the museum anyway. Holden thinks about how comforting it is that the museum's displays are frozen in time. But when he arrives at the museum he finds he doesn't want to go inside. He takes a cab to meet Sally Hayes instead. She shows up ten minutes late to meet Holden, but looks so good he doesn't hold it against her. He feels like marrying her, even though he doesn't particularly like her.

At the play, the actors' performances seem phony and conceited to Holden. During intermission, Sally talks to a boy named George who she knows from Andover. Their phony conversation disgusts Holden. After the performance, Holden and Sally go ice-skating. As they drink cokes, Holden asks Sally if she gets fed up with stuff like school. Holden then says that he hates school and everything else: taxis, New York, etc. Sally asks him to stop shouting, but Holden continues and becomes out of control.

Suddenly Holden suggests they should run away to New England and live in a cabin together. Sally tells him there will be time for such things when they're older. Holden tells Sally she's "a royal pain in the ass." Sally starts to cry. Holden apologizes, then starts to laugh, then finally leaves.

After his encounter with Sally, Holden's idealized vision of Jane threatens to break down. He calls up Carl Luce, a friend from the Whooton School who attends Columbia. They plan to meet that night. In the meantime, Holden goes to Radio City Music Hall to see a movie. He's annoyed

by the Rockettes pre-movie dance, but remembers how he and Allie used to love the man in the orchestra who played kettledrum because the man seemed to enjoy it so much.

The movie is about the war. Afterward, as Holden walks to meet Luce, he thinks about D.B.'s experience in World War II. He thinks that he could never be in the army. If a war came, he thinks, he would volunteer to sit on top of an atomic bomb.

At the Wicker Bar, Holden thinks about Luce. Luce is now a student at Columbia University. At the Whooton School, Luce used to tell the younger boys about sex. When Luce arrives, he treats Holden coolly, and refuses to be drawn into the kind of sex discussion that they had had at Whooton, and he suggests that Holden needs psychoanalysis. Holden remembers that Luce's father is a psychoanalyst, but Luce is evasive when Holden asks whether Luce's father ever analyzed his own son. Annoyed by Holden's juvenile comments and questions, Luce departs.

After Luce leaves, Holden stays at the bar and gets very drunk. He stumbles to the phone booth and makes an incoherent late-night call to Sally Hayes. He then tries to make a date with the lounge singer. When that fails, he tries, with no more success, to make a date with the hat-check girl.

He decides to walk to the duck pond in Central Park to see if the ducks are still around. Along the way, he becomes quite upset when he drops and breaks the record he had bought for Phoebe. Because he had splashed water in his hair at the hotel in an attempt to sober up, his hair begins to freeze. At the duck pond, he worries about catching pneumonia and imagines his funeral. He missed Allie's funeral, he says, because he was in the hospital after breaking the garage windows with his bare hands. He remembers going to Allie's grave with his parents.

Holden wants to talk to Phoebe, and he is running low on money, so he decides to risk going home. He expects his parents to be asleep, which will allow him to sneak in,



A rye field on a sunny day

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Chapter 16

1. What does Holden like about the nuns?

2. Why did Holden not enjoy Lawrence Olivier's performance of Hamlet?

3. Why does Holden walk to the Museum of Natural History?

4. What leads Holden to say, "I can't explain what I mean. And even if I could, I'm not sure I'd feel like it"?

Chapter 17

5. What does Holden like about Harris Mackim?

6. What is nauseating to Holden?

7. Where do Holden and Sally go to skate?

8. What does Sally ask Holden to stop doing?

Chapter 18

9. Why do girls like (to use Holden's word) "bastards," according to Holden?

10. What is the genre of the movie that Holden watches at Radio City?

11. Which war did D.B. serve in?

LITERARY ANALYSIS

Reading Selection 1, from Chapter 16

It wasn't as cold as it was the day before, but the sun still wasn't out, and it wasn't too nice for walking. But there was one nice thing. This family that you could tell just came out of some church were walking right in front of me--a father, a mother, and a little kid about six years old. They looked sort of poor. The father had on one of those pearl-gray hats that poor guys wear a lot when they want to look sharp. He and his wife were just walking along, talking, not paying any attention to their kid. The kid was swell. He was walking in the street, instead of on the sidewalk, but right next to the curb. He was making out like he was walking a very straight line, the way kids do, and the whole time he kept singing and humming. I got up closer so I could hear what he was singing. He was singing that song, "If a body catch a body coming through the rye." He had a pretty little voice, too. He was just singing for the hell of it, you could tell. The cars zoomed by, brakes screeched all over the place, his parents paid no attention to him, and he kept on walking next to the curb and singing "If a body catch a body coming through the rye." It made me feel better. It made me feel not so depressed any more.

Broadway was mobbed and messy. It was Sunday, and only about twelve o'clock, but it was mobbed anyway. Everybody was on their way to the movies--the Paramount or the Astor or the Strand or the Capitol or one of those crazy places. Everybody was all dressed up, because it was Sunday, and that made it worse. But the worst part was that you could tell they all wanted to go to the movies. I couldn't stand looking at them. I can understand somebody going to the movies because there's nothing else to do, but when somebody really wants to go, and even walks fast so as to get there quicker, then it depresses hell out of me.

1. What makes Holden feel not less depressed? Why do you think the boy's singing makes him feel less depressed? Present a (psychological) reading in relation to a theme (e.g., the theme of innocence and adulthood).

2. Discuss Holden's sensitivity to the "cars [that] zoomed by," and the "brakes [that] screeched all over the place" as the child walks next to the curb. Why does Salinger's writing draw attention to the child's vulnerability through Holden's point of view?

Reading Selection 2, from Chapter 20



New York City today

I've lived in New York all my life, and I know Central Park like the back of my hand, because I used to roller-skate there all the time and ride my bike when I was a kid, but I had the most terrific trouble finding that lagoon that night. I knew right where it was--it was right near Central Park South and all--but I still couldn't find it. I must've been drunker than I thought. I kept walking and walking, and it kept getting darker and darker and spookier and spookier. I didn't see one person the whole time I was in the park. I'm just as glad. I probably would've jumped about a mile if I had. Then, finally, I found it. What it was, it was partly frozen and partly not frozen. But I didn't see any ducks around. I walked all around the whole damn lake--I damn near fell in once, in fact--but I didn't see a single duck. I thought maybe if there were any around, they might be asleep or something near the edge of the water, near the grass and all. That's how I nearly fell in. But I couldn't find any.

Finally I sat down on this bench, where it wasn't so goddam dark. Boy, I was still shivering like a bastard, and the back of my hair, even though I had my hunting hat on, was sort of full of little hunks of ice. That worried me. I thought probably I'd get pneumonia and die. I started picturing millions of jerks coming to my funeral and all. My grandfather from Detroit, that keeps calling out the numbers of the streets when you ride on a goddam bus with him, and my aunts--I have about fifty aunts--and all my lousy cousins. What a mob'd be there. They all

came when Allie died, the whole goddam stupid bunch of them. I have this one stupid aunt with halitosis that kept saying how peaceful he looked lying there, D.B. told me. I wasn't there. I was still in the hospital. I had to go to the hospital and all after I hurt my hand. Anyway, I kept worrying that I was getting pneumonia, with all those hunks of ice in my hair, and that I was going to die. I felt sorry as hell for my mother and father. Especially my mother, because she still isn't over my brother Allie yet. I kept picturing her not knowing what to do with all my suits and athletic equipment and all. The only good thing, I knew she wouldn't let old Phoebe come to my goddam funeral because she was only a little kid. That was the only good part. Then I thought about the whole bunch of them sticking me in a goddam cemetery and all, with my name on this tombstone and all. Surrounded by dead guys. Boy, when you're dead, they really fix you up. I hope to hell when I do die somebody has sense enough to just dump me in the river or something. Anything except sticking me in a goddam cemetery. People coming and putting a bunch of flowers on your stomach on Sunday, and all that crap. Who wants flowers when you're dead? Nobody.

When the weather's nice, my parents go out quite frequently and stick a bunch of flowers on old Allie's grave. I went with them a couple of times, but I cut it out. In the first place, I certainly don't enjoy seeing him in that crazy cemetery. Surrounded by dead guys and tombstones and all. It wasn't too bad when the sun was out, but twice--twice--we were there when it started to rain. It was awful. It rained on his lousy tombstone, and it rained on the grass on his stomach. It rained all over the place. All the visitors that were visiting the cemetery started running like hell over to their cars. That's what nearly drove me crazy. All the visitors could get in their cars and turn on their radios and all and then go someplace nice for dinner--everybody except Allie. I couldn't stand it. I know it's only his body and all that's in the cemetery, and his soul's in Heaven and all that crap, but I couldn't stand it anyway. I just wish he wasn't there. You didn't know him. If you'd known him, you'd know what I mean. It's not too bad when the sun's out, but the sun only comes out when it feels like coming out.

After a while, just to get my mind off getting pneumonia and all, I took out my dough and tried to count it in the lousy light from the street lamp. All I had was three singles and five quarters and a nickel left--boy, I spent a fortune since I left Pencey. Then what I did, I went down near the lagoon and I sort of skipped the quarters and the nickel across it, where it wasn't frozen. I don't know why I did it, but I did it. I guess I thought it'd take my mind off getting pneumonia and dying. It didn't, though.

I started thinking how old Phoebe would feel if I got pneumonia and died. It was a childish way to think, but I couldn't stop myself. She'd feel pretty bad if something like that happened. She likes me a lot. I mean she's quite fond of me. She really is. Anyway, I couldn't get that off my mind, so finally what I figured I'd do, I figured I'd better sneak home and see her, in case I died and all. I had my door key with me and all, and I figured what I'd do, I'd sneak in the apartment, very quiet and all, and just sort of chew the fat with her for a while. The only thing that worried me was our front door. It creaks like a bastard. It's a pretty old apartment house, and the superintendent's a lazy bastard, and everything creaks and squeaks. I was afraid my parents might hear me sneaking in. But I decided I'd try it anyhow.

So I got the hell out of the park, and went home. I walked all the way. It wasn't too far, and I wasn't tired or even drunk any more. It was just very cold and nobody around anywhere.

1. Which part of New York City is Holden in at this point in the novel?

2. What is the whole backstory about Holden's hand when everyone was at Allie's funeral? What did he do to himself, and why did he do it?

3i) Why does Holden finally decide to go home? Apart from the cold, is it possible to present a psychological reading of his decision to return home?

3ii) There are 26 chapters in the novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*. Assuming that Holden is writing or telling his story in a rest home, is it significant that he talks about homecoming in Chapter 20. Does narrative therapy work for an alienated teenager like Holden?

VOCABULARY

blasé	inane	furlough	homey	raspy	swanky	economizing	mutiny
inferiority	aristocratic	bunk	boisterous				

Match the words above with their definitions below.

1. The state of being lower in value, quality, or estimation:_____
2. Empty talk; nonsense:_____
3. One that lacks sense or substance:_____
4. Loud, noisy, and lacking in restraint and discipline:_____
5. Open rebellion against authorities, especially superior officers:_____
6. Rough; grating:_____
7. Having a feeling of home; comfortable; cozy:_____
8. Fashionable and elegant:_____
9. A leave of absence, especially one granted to a member of the armed forces:_____
10. Uninterested because of frequent exposure or indulgence:_____
11. Avoiding waste or reducing expenditure:_____

GRAMMAR

SUBJECTS COMPLEMENTS

- A **subject complement** is a noun, pronoun, or adjective that comes after a linking verb, such as a form of the verb be (for example, am, is, are, was, or were). The subject complement renames or tells something about the subject.
- If a verb in a sentence can be replaced by a form of the verb be, it is acting as a linking verb and takes a subject complement. Among the other verbs that sometimes function as linking verbs are seem, feel, smell, sound, and look.

EXAMPLES: My pet rat is **an albino**.

The house seems [is] **deserted**.

Avi looks [is] **happy**.

A. Underline the verb in each sentence. Then write SC above each subject complement.

1. Your cold sounds very heavy on the phone.
2. Zora seemed annoyed with me this morning.
3. What was the name of the song you played?
4. Your fingertips look blue with cold!
5. Don't those sea monkeys look larger in the illustration on the box?
6. It feels great to be finished my exam!
7. That musk cologne smells wonderful on you.
8. All the candidates for the job seem capable of doing the work required.
9. The prime minister has been a civil servant his whole adult life.
10. The official on the other end of the line sounded bored and unimpressed.
11. The earthquake was a devastating tragedy for residents of eastern India.
12. My aunt appeared unconcerned about the mess we left in her car.

B. Underline linking verbs once and action verbs twice. Circle the direct object or subject complement, and then identify it by writing DO or SC on the line. (Hint: Remember that linking verbs can be replaced by a form of the verb be.) The first one has been done for you.

1. (The sky was overcast.) SC
2. My stomach felt very queasy after I ate that hot dog. _____
3. I could feel the grass tickling my chin. _____
4. Johanna looked dazed after the accident. _____
5. Robert smelled smoke somewhere in the basement. _____
6. The cake smelled delicious! _____
7. That cute little puppy will be a huge hungry dog in a few months! _____
8. Marta could feel the ground shaking during the earthquake. _____

THE END