

Discussion Questions for *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

(Some questions taken or adapted from http://classiclit.about.com/od/catcherintherye/a/aa_catcherquest.htm)

1. Who has read *The Catcher in the Rye* before? Who has not?
2. If you've never read it, was it what you expected? If you read it years ago, was reading it a different experience this time around?
3. *The Catcher in the Rye* was first published in 1951, but is still among the top books challenged for removal in schools and libraries. Why do you think that is?
4. Did you like Holden Caulfield? Did you find him interesting?
5. What is important about the title?

Here is the passage: "Anyway, I keep picturing all these little kids playing some game in this big field of rye and all. Thousands of little kids, and nobody's around - nobody big, I mean - except me. And I'm standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. What I have to do, I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff - I mean if they're running and they don't look where they're going I have to come out from somewhere and catch them. That's all I do all day. I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all. I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be. I know it's crazy." (chapter 22)

6. Does the novel end the way you expected?
7. How essential is the setting to the story? Could the story have taken place anywhere else? In any other time?
8. Did you find the dialog in the story realistic?
9. There is not much of a plot in this book. Did that bother you?
10. How does *The Catcher in the Rye* relate to current society? Is the novel still relevant?
11. Were there any passages you particularly liked?
12. Does anyone have any experience that relate to the book?
13. Are there any questions you would like to ask?