

Student Packet

Grades 9–12

The Catcher in the Rye

J.D. Salinger



Activities to teach Reading, Thinking, and Writing

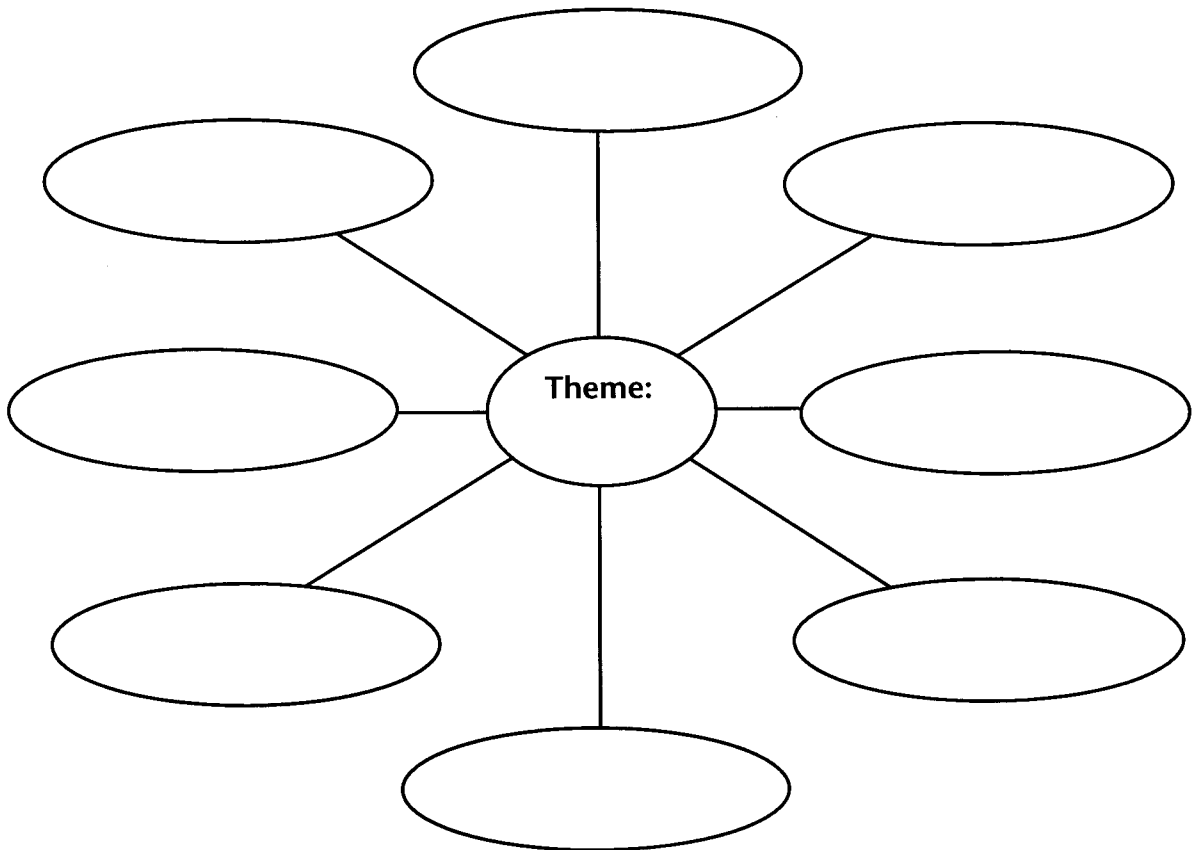
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Name _____

Directions: Trace any one of the following themes throughout *The Catcher in the Rye*. Explain what you think Salinger’s message is about the theme that you choose.

- change
- alienation
- courage
- maturing
- honesty

Before you begin writing, use the diagram below or a Venn diagram, or both, to make notes about what you will want to include in your essay.



Name _____

The Catcher in the Rye
Comprehension Quiz, Level II
Use After Reading pages 1-104

Directions: Answer each question below in a sentence or two. (4 points each)

1. Briefly describe the narrator of the novel.
2. Name two books or authors the narrator enjoys.
3. What is Pencey and why is Holden leaving?
4. Why does Holden regret going to see Mr. Spencer?
5. Briefly describe Holden's hat and where he got it.
6. How does Holden treat Ackley?
7. Who is Allie?
8. Why does Holden tear up the composition he wrote for Stradlater?
9. What sort of lies does Holden tell on the train and why?
10. Where does Holden direct the taxi to go and why?
11. How does Holden feel about the three women with whom he dances?
12. Who is Phoebe?
13. What is Phoebe like?
14. Why does Holden call his brother D. B. a "prostitute"?
15. What does Holden wonder about the ducks?
16. Why doesn't Holden have any gloves?
17. How is Holden's treatment of the prostitute like his treatment of the burlesque dancer he telephones?
18. Do you think that Holden drinks too much? Briefly explain.
19. Why does Maurice beat up Holden?
20. Why doesn't Holden report Maurice to the police?

Name _____

Identification: Find a character on the right who matches the description on the left. Write the letter of the character next to the matching number. Each character is to be used only once.

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| _____ | 1. Holden's roommate, he dated Jane. | <p>A. Holden
B. D. B.
C. Phoebe
D. Allie
E. Sally
F. Jane
G. Ackley
H. Stradlater
I. Mr. Spencer
J. James Castle
K. Carl Luce
L. Mr. Antolini
M. Dick Slagle</p> |
| _____ | 2. He gave sex talks while a student adviser at Whooton. | |
| _____ | 3. elderly history teacher down with the grippe | |
| _____ | 4. pretty girl Holden asked to marry him | |
| _____ | 5. He jumped out a window wearing Holden's sweater. | |
| _____ | 6. a screenwriter | |
| _____ | 7. Holden played checkers with her. | |
| _____ | 8. ten-year-old girl who gave Holden her Christmas savings | |
| _____ | 9. "about the best teacher" Holden ever had | |
| _____ | 10. an intrusive social isolate with halitosis | |
| _____ | 11. 17-year-old son of a lawyer | |
| _____ | 12. nice, smart red-head who wrote poems on his baseball mitt | |
| _____ | 13. Holden was painfully aware that his suitcases were better than this roommate's. | |

Multiple Choice

Directions: Indicate the BEST response for each item.

- Which of the following words does NOT describe Holden Caulfield?
(a) humorless (b) defiant (c) depressed (d) alienated
- Which of the following jobs would Holden be LEAST likely to choose when he is 21?
(a) counseling depressed teens (b) writing screenplays
(c) park ranger (d) teaching second grade