

Catcher in the Rye
Chapters 21-24

1. Consider how Holden feels about D.B. and how Holden feels about Phoebe. When he arrives home, Holden finds Phoebe sleeping in D.B.'s room.
 - a. How might Phoebe's sleeping in D.B.'s room be symbolic?
 - b. What might it foreshadow?
2. Examine Phoebe's speech patterns on pg. 162-164. What characteristics of her speech are similar to Holden's?
3. On pg. 171, Holden identifies Allie and talking with Phoebe as two things he likes. How do his comments at the bottom of the page explain some of his behavior earlier in the book?
4. Reread Holden's description of the job he'd like to have as "the catcher in the rye" on pg. 173. Explain how his explanation of the job sheds new symbolic meaning on the following:
 - a. The red hunting hat [remember, in baseball, a catcher wears his cap backwards.]
 - b. Allie's baseball mitt
 - c. The color of the ink Allie used to write the poems on his mitt.
5. What might Holden's wished for job as "the catcher in the rye" symbolize?
6. At the end of chapter 23, Holden gives Phoebe his red hunting hat. What might this gesture symbolized?
7. a. On pg. 187-190, Mr. Antolini analyzes Holden's "problems." How accurate is his analysis? Be specific.
 - b. On page 188, Mr. Antolini says, "The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one." What is Holden's "cause"?
 - c. Does he want to "die nobly" for it, or does he want to "live humbly" for it? Explain.
8. At the end of chapter 24, Mr. Antolini's "patting" makes Holden nervous, and he leaves feeling betrayed and rejected. Who else in the book betrayed and/or rejected Holden? How?