**J.D. Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye* Test**

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| **I. Matching: Match each character with his or her description and fill the corresponding bubbles.**  1. This family member is “out being a prostitute” and he abandoned his values to make money. This person may have abandoned Holden.  2. Holden dislikes this suitemate because of his gross habits and annoying behavior, but this character is also isolated like Holden.  3. A physical fight with this roommate elicits Holden’s jealousy and his personal insecurities.  4. Holden’s fixation or love for this perfect, innocent girl consumes him throughout the novel. Her step-father was abusive to her in some way.  5. This female family member symbolizes innocence and purity.  6. This teacher’s discussion to save Holden falls on deaf ears when Holden is too sleepy and drunk to pay attention.  7. This family member’s death haunts Holden and begins his fixation with the preservation of the innocence.  8. While wearing Holden’s turtleneck sweater, this character jumps out a window.  9. This hotel employee/pimp takes advantage of Holden’s immaturity by teaching him a lesson in humility when he beats him up.  10. Holden’s ex- girlfriend, whom he goes on a theater date with then asks her to run away with him. | A. Ackley  B. Allie  C. Carl Luce  D. D.B.  E James Castle  AB. Jane  AC. Maurice  AD. Mr. Antolini  AE. Phoebe  BC. Sally  BD. Mr. Spencer  BE. Sunny  CD. Stradlater |

**II. True or False Section (A= TRUE, B= FALSE)**

11. The rain washing over Holden at the end of the novel is symbolic of him being cleansed.

12. Holden writes Stradlater’s composition about his brother Allie’s baseball glove.

13. The **setting** for *most* of the plot occurs in New York City around Christmas in 1949.

14. Carl Luce had suggested to Holden a few years ago that he should get psychoanalyzed.

15. The plot of the story is written as one lengthy **flashback**.

16. Mr. Spencer fails Holden in history class for cheating.

17. Holden never talks to his parents or Jane Gallagher in his three-days in the city.

18. Holden’s **narration** is unreliable, because he is a self-proclaimed liar and he exaggerates.

19. Holden asks all of the wrong people to hang out with him because is searching for comfort and a connection.

20. D.B. is the sibling who convinces Holden *not* to run away at the close of the story.

**III. Multiple Choice Section**

21. Holden remembers that Jane always kept her kings in the back row when they played checkers. This symbolizes:

a) a protective wall b) towers c) her being a “queen” d) a fence

22. Why does Holden get mad at both Sally and Phoebe?

a. They don’t love him. b. They ruin his plans to run away from his problems.

c. He hates them. d. They lied to him.

23. Where does Holden write his story?

a. Holden writes from a mental hospital or psychiatric institution in California.

b. Holden writes from his room at Pencey.

c. Holden writes from Grand Central Park by the lagoon in New York City.

d. Holden writes from the Museum of Natural History in New York City.

24. Holden’s red hunting hat is an important **symbol**. What does it symbolize?

a. Holden’s anger because both Holden and hunters are angry people.

b. Holden’s arrogance and pride because he is a skilled hunter.

c. Holden’s irony because Holden is a vegetarian.

d. Holden’s need for protection, his isolation, and his adoration for his red-headed siblings .

25. What traumatic experience in Holden’s life can we infer significantly affected his outlook on life *most* of all?

a. when D.B. left the family to pursue a writing career in Hollywood

b. when Allie died

c. when Jane Gallagher breaks down and cries in front of Holden

d. when James Castle died

26 Holden never had closure or got to say good-bye to Allie because:

a. Allie was cremated.

b. Holden’s mom said he was too young to go to the funeral.

c. Holden missed Allie’s funeral because he was in the hospital.

27. Why does Holden love the Museum of Natural History?

a. It always has new exhibits and sights to see, which characterizes Holden’s love of the new.

b. It is always empty, which characterizes Holden’s appreciation for isolation and solitude.

c. It never changes, which characterizes Holden’s fascination with fixed, reliable items.

28. What is the connection between the book’s title and its plot?

a. It is the dream job that Holden envisions for himself.

b. It is the name of the memoir that Holden is writing for his brother.

c. It is the name of Holden’s favorite sandwich, one that is a symbol for his hunger.

29. What is Holden’s obsession with the ducks’ departure from Grand Central Park?

a. He loves birds and wants to start a bird watching club at Pencey.

b. He fixates about things that change, leave, or disappear.

c. He likes that birds are both predator and prey.

d. He yearns to better his education of nature that he didn’t learn at Pencey.

30. Why doesn’t Holden have sex with the prostitute, Sunny?

a. He fears contracting a sexually transmitted disease from her.

b. Holden has difficulty connecting with most people physically or emotionally.

c. Holden feels sorry for her because she was abused just like Jane Gallagher.

d. There’s nothing sunny about Sunny; she’s busted (i.e. ugly, revolting, and nauseating).

31. Which one of the following expressions is not repeated in Holden’s **diction**?

a. “…and all” b. “It/I really was.” c. “old…” d. “yo”

32. Organize this list of important women in Holden’s life from the ones he cares for the most to the least from left to right.

a. Jane Gallagher, Phoebe, Sunny, Sally

b. Sunny, Sally, Phoebe, Jane Gallagher

c. Phoebe, Jane Gallagher, Sally, Sunny

d. Sally, Sunny, Phoebe, Jane Gallagher

33. On the carousel, Phoebe and other kids attempt to grab the golden ring. What is the metaphor for the golden ring?

a. It represents fiscal responsibility, which Holden fears but Phoebe embraces.

b. It represents Salinger’s literary camaraderie for Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Ring* series.

c. It represents marriage and Holden’s hope that he will get married someday.

d. It represents taking chances and clutching at freedom, which is natural although risky.

34. What advice does Mr. Antolini offer to Holden?

a. Adjust to adult society and decide what you want to be in life in order to avoid a serious fall.

b. Be who you are and say what you feel.

c. Screw society, be different, and rage against the machine.

d. Suck it up, handsome.

35. Mr. Antolini says that he fears Holden will die for something. What is that “something”?

a. a family member b. revenge c. an unworthy cause d. an unworthy girl

36. Given the information that we suspect is the root of Holden’s problems, why does Holden like Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*?

a. Mercutio, like Allie, dies prematurely, and it isn’t his fault that he dies.

b. Mercutio, like Allie, loves baseball and poetry.

c. Mercutio, like Holden, is a “crazy madman” who doesn’t have any friends.

d. Mercutio, like Holden, loves women and attempts to be with as many women as possible.

37. Holden’s brothers are **foils** (characters who have opposing personalities). Which one of the following statements *best* explains how D.B. and Allie are foils?

a. D.B. is alive and Allie is dead.

b. D.B. is older and Allie is younger.

c. D.B. is a sell out who abandoned his values; Allie will never become a phony and sell out.

d. D.B. is a writer and Allie is a baseball player.

38. What does Holden realize when he says that it would be impossible to rub out all the “@$#$ you”s written in inappropriate places in the world?

a. He realizes that children are just as (if not more) vulgar than adults.

b. He realizes that children will grow up eventually and one can’t protect children forever.

c. He realizes that growing up is the worst thing in the world.

d. He realizes that adults just want to be kids.

39. What is the *best* **theme** of this novel?

a. All adults are “phonies” who can’t be trusted…especially balding English teachers.

b. Growing up and coming of age can be difficult, but it is natural, necessary, and expected.

c. Never trust a prostitute and her pimp; they’ll always try to cheat you out of your money.

d. When life gets too difficult, it’s best to run away from your problems.

40. What excuse did Holden always give for not calling Jane?

a. “I wasn’t in the mood.” c. “She’s not home from school yet.”

b. “She’s probably on a date.” d. “Her mom hates me.”

**IV. Short Answer Section: Explain oneof the following quotes in detail on the back of your Scantron *(10 points each)*.**

1. Explain all of the symbols in Holden’s “catcher in the rye” dream. What does the rye field, the cliff, and Holden standing on the edge of the cliff all symbolize?
2. In Holden’s world, death is everywhere. How does death plague Holden?
3. Why does it make sense that Holden likes the mummies at the museum? Explain their symbolism.
4. Describe **one internal** *and* **one** **external conflict** in the novel.