

APPENDICES

Synopsis of J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye

Holden Caulfield is a sixteen years old teenager who struggles between his transitions from childhood to adulthood. He enters adult world with his purity as a child; therefore he finds many differences that he does not agree with. Since he rejects others with all their attitudes and their custom, he finds many difficulties in socializing in it.

Holden's rejection towards adult world is also caused by his being send away to private school by his parents in an early age that makes him grow up without love, care, and guidance. He flunks out of school so many times because he does not think that school is an important thing but also says that school is a place full of phonies and crooks. His disagreement makes him not have any friends and makes him become a loner and depressed.

In his opinion, adult world is full of lies, phonies and corrupt people that have lost their compassion and value material more than human existence. Holden's disagreement with the society makes him have his own idea towards it. He begins to have a cynical thought in all aspects in the society. His cynicism gradually leads him into a negative attitude such as self destructive behavior, anti human interaction and a sad lonely feeling that clutters his mind with suicidal thoughts. He refuses to

associate himself with mature ways of living, and so isolates himself from anyone his own age or older.

The reality in the society has ironically made him to be such a pathetic character. He enters the society with his innocence and purity as a child but the society makes him give up his principle if he wants to be accepted. Holden stands still in his principle and fights back the society which is certainly impossible for him and makes him seen by the society as a naïve and an immature person. He realizes that he stands as a critic of society, taking a stance against phoniness and insincerity. He is a youth, who is caught between the worlds of childhood and adulthood. In this position, he reveals the need for maturity as well as the need for honesty and integrity.

Biography of the Author

J.D. Salinger was born and grow up in the district of Manhattan, New York. He was the son of a prosperous Jewish importer of Kosher cheese and his Scotch-Irish wife. In his childhood the young Jerome was called Sonny. The family had a beautiful apartment on Park Avenue. After restless studies in prep schools, he was sent to Valley Forge Military Academy (1934-36), which he attended briefly. In 1937 when he was eighteen and nineteen, Salinger spent five months in Europe. From 1937 to 1938 he studied at Ursinus College and New York University.

In 1939 Salinger took a class in short story writing at Columbia University under Whit Burnett, founder-editor of the *Story Magazine*. During World War II he was drafted into the infantry and was involved in the invasion of Normandy.

Salinger's comrades considered him very brave, a genuine hero. During the first months in Europe Salinger managed to write stories and in Paris meet Ernest Hemingway. He was also involved in one of the bloodiest episodes of the war in Hürtgenwald, where he witnessed the horrors of wars.

In his celebrated story 'For Esmé - With Love and Squalor' Salinger depicted a fatigued American soldier. He starts a correspondence with a thirteen-year-old British girl, which helps him to get a grip of life again. Salinger himself was hospitalized for stress. After serving in the Army Signal Corps and Counter-Intelligence Corps from 1942 to 1946, he devoted himself to writing.

Salinger's early short stories appeared in such magazines like *Story*, where his first story was published in 1940, *Saturday Evening Post* and *Esquire*, and then in the *New Yorker*, which published almost all of his later texts. In 1948 'A Perfect Day for Bananafish', he continues in the collections Franny and Zooey (1961), Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters (1963) and Seymour: An Introduction (1963).

Twenty stories published in *Collier's*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Esquire*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Cosmopolitan*, and the *New Yorker* between 1941 and 1948 appeared in an edition in 1974, The Complete Uncollected Stories Of J.D. Salinger (2 vols.). Many of them reflect Salinger's own service in the army. Later Salinger adopted Hindu-Buddhist influences.

Salinger's first novel, The Catcher in the Rye, became immediately a Book-of-the-Month Club selection and won huge international acclaim. It sells still some 250.000 copies annually. Salinger did not do much to help publicity, and asked that his photograph should not be used in connection with the book.

The first reviews of the work were mixed, although most critics considered it brilliant. In 1961 Time Magazine sent a team of reporters to investigate his private life. "I like to write. I love to write. But I write just for myself and my own pleasure," said Salinger in 1974 to a New York Times correspondent. However, according to Joyce Maynard, who was close to the author for a long time from the 1970s, Salinger still writes, but nobody is allowed to see the work.