

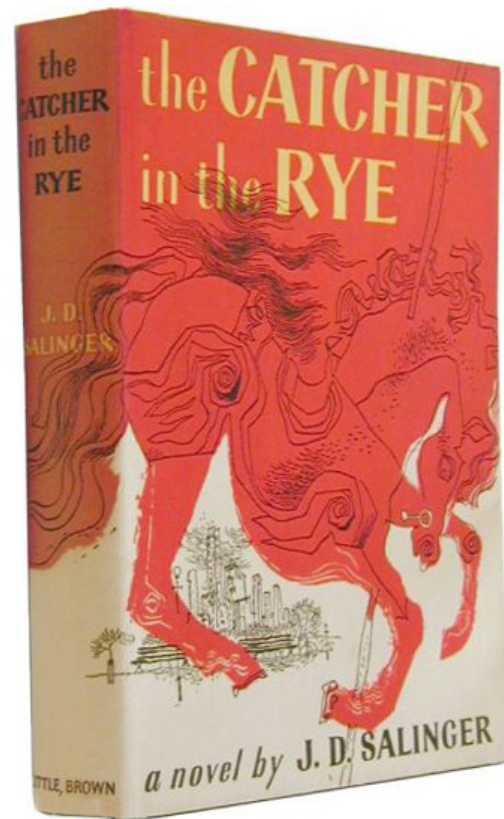


The Catcher in the Rye

A Postmodern Novel

A New Perspective

- The decades after WWII are characterized by a pendulum swing in attitudes
 - Periods of conformity
 - Periods of rebellion
- Many books of the time carry themes that represent this struggle between conformity and rebellion
- *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951) was one of the first

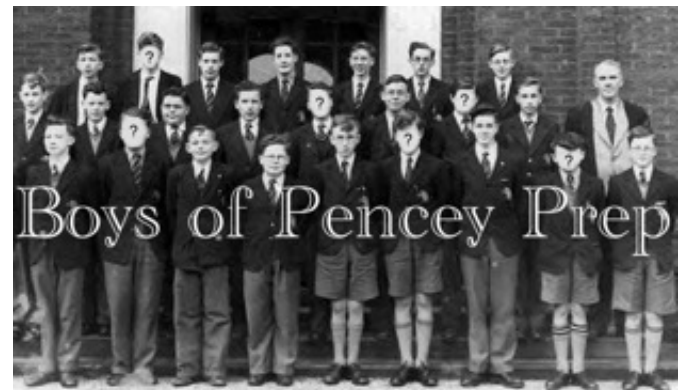


Holden Caulfield's World

- 1950
- Pencey Academy: Private School in Pennsylvania
- Manhattan, New York

Most Important Thing to Remember:

- America at this time is not designed for YOU
 - No Music
 - No Books
 - No Movies
 - No Television Shows
 - This is not a world for teenagers

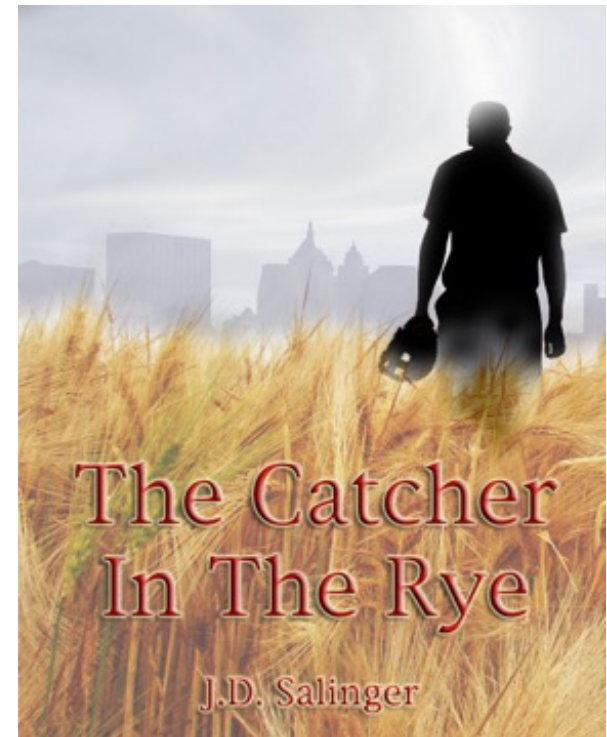


Themes

- Growing Up
 - Childhood vs. Adulthood
 - Ideal vs. Real

Alienation

- Is Holden alienated?
- Or does he alienate himself?
- Connection and Communication



Motifs

- Phoniness
- Sex
- Depression



Symbols

- Holden's Red Hunting Cap
 - Protection or Distinction
- Ducks in Central Park
 - Where do they go in the winter?
 - Is Holden really asking about the ducks?
- Museum of Natural History
 - What do museums do?
- The Catcher in the Rye
 - Childhood = Running through an beautiful field of rye
 - Adulthood = Falling off a cliff



10 Second Summary



Holden Caulfield:

*Angst angst angst swear curse swear
crazy crazy angst swear curse, society
sucks, and I'm a stupid jerk.*

THE END