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Catcher in the rye character physical descriptions

"The Catcher in the Rye" was published in 1951. Its setting is around the 1950s and is narrated by Holden Caulfield, a teenage boy who receives treatment within a psychiatric ward. The stories that he narrates are past events that occurred a couple of days before the end of the fall school semester. The narrative and turmoil within the story helps the reader learn more about Caulfield's characteristics. Holden is extremely judgmental of others -- especially of those who he considers "phony," or those who put on a whole new persona around others. He sneers at the hypocrisy and malice that exists in the adult world and uses mockery to shield himself from all of the disappointment that adulthood brings. Caulfield believes that he is the only decent character among a world of phony adults. NaiveHolden's fixation with phoniness and his inability to understand the way social orders work in society makes him appear naive. He has the ability to identify the phoniness and egocentric behaviors of society, but tends to go into denial. As a result, he has difficulty functioning in a world that is fallible. In addition, Holden believes that society can change without any effort to create positive changes. PerfectionistHolden's perfectionism makes him uneasy with his own weaknesses. In the novel, he shows meanness, superficiality and falsehood, just like everyone else he relentlessly judges. A couple of times he tries to commit suicide. However, his love for his sister will not allow him to kill himself. Presumptuous, Childish and DisrespectfulHolden is presumptuous, childish and disrespectful. When he does not get his way, he has temper tantrums. Although, it is against the rules to smoke in dorm rooms, Holden chooses to smoke anyway. He also chooses not to study, which causes him to get expelled due to academic failure. In addition, he pretends that he is blind to annoy his mother for his own amusement. The novel's main character, Holden Caulfield, wears many hats. He is the narrator, the protagonist, and also the antagonist. This is a novel very much about the inner thoughts and demons of a young man trying to find his way in the world. As he struggles to find a sense of belonging, it becomes apparent that almost every other character also serves as an antagonist to Holden as well. However, nobody stands in the way of Holden's happiness more than himself as he continually see the bad in situations and people. This coming of age tale bleakly reveals the pains of growing up by centralizing Holden Caulfield as both hero and victim. The Catcher in the Rye Character List Who Are the Main Characters in Catcher in the Rye? Catcher in the Rye Protagonist - Holden Caulfield Catcher in the Rye Narrator - Holden Caulfield Catcher in the Rye Antagonist - Holden Caulfield; everyone else Holden Caulfield Description Holden Caulfield Character Traits - Holden is sixteen years old who, at the beginning of the novel, is expelled for academic failure. The audience learns that this is not the first time Holden has failed to live up to standards at a school and he feels lost because of this. As the novel's narrator, he takes on a harsh and cynical view of the world around him. He brings attention to the hypocritical nature of the people he knows and shows what it is like to navigate the disappointment that young adults feel when they start to realize how harsh the world can really be. However unsatisfied Holden is with the world around him, readers can see that he himself acts out some of the same values he so strongly detests, and this is how he comes to be the antagonist as well. He tends to hold himself back without even noticing. Phoebe Caulfield Description Phoebe Caulfield Character Traits - Holden's little sister. She tends to serve as someone wise beyond her years, who holds a loving but critical light to who Holden is and how he behaves. Instead of sympathizing with Holden after he fails out of school, Phoebe becomes frustrated and tells Holden that he needs to grow up. This is exactly the problem that Holden is having—he hates to leave behind the comfort of childhood innocence and is having a hard time figuring out how to grow up. However, without Phoebe's critical eye on Holden, the audience would only have his perspective and might not see how unreliable of a narrator he really is. Phoebe is crucial to the full development of Holden's character. Phoebe also provides an opportunity to see Holden's softer side, as he cares a great deal for his sister. Mr. Spencer Description Mr. Spencer Character Traits - Teacher of Holden's who speaks plainly to Holden about his academic failures and about how he needs to grow up and take responsibility for himself. This angers Holden and he refuses to listen. This shows the start to a pattern of negative relationships that Holden has with older men. Carl Luce Description Carl Luce Character Traits - An older boy who Holden meets up with in the city after he leaves school. Holden hopes to receive some advice from Carl, since he's older but not quite fully grown up yet. However, Carl does not have much patience for Holden's trials and tribulations and says that Holden needs psychiatric help. Mr. Antolini Description Mr. Antolini Character Traits - A former teacher of Holden's. He is one of the last people Holden labels as a “phony” and as such, Holden drunkenly seeks him out for advice. However, Mr. Antolini does not have appropriate boundaries as he welcomes Holden late at night into his messy apartment. When Mr. Antolini touches Holden's forehead after he's fallen asleep, however, Holden interprets this as an overstepping of personal boundaries and leaves in a hurry, shaken and disappointed. Stradlater Description Stradlater Character Traits - Holden's school roommate. He has all of the qualities of a “phony” that Holden hates. Ackley Description Ackley Character Traits - Holden's school neighbor. He is slovenly and unkempt, qualities which Holden finds repulsive. Jane Gallagher Description Jane Gallagher Character Traits - Holden's childhood crush and symbol of his unwillingness to let go of his childhood. Allie Caulfield Description Allie Caulfield Character Traits - Holden's younger brother who died three years before the novel takes place. Allie's death had a profound impact on Holden, especially as he navigates growing up. D.B. Caulfield Description D.B. Caulfield Character Traits - Holden's older brother who he sees as a sellout. Sally Hayes Description Sally Hayes Character Traits - An attractive girl who Holden dates but never really likes. Maurice Description Maurice Character Traits - The elevator attendant/pimp who sends a sex worker to Holden. Sunny Description Sunny Character Traits - The sex worker who visits Holden and steals money from him. Holden and Phoebe share an unbreakable bond that plays a crucial role throughout the novel. Holden and Phoebe have similar qualities because they are siblings, but the way they approach life and interact with people is very different. The Catcher in the Rye takes place in the mid-1900s in New York City. The novel begins with Holden getting kicked out of Pencey Prep Academy. He is not ready to face his family and disappoint them once again, but he is also looking forward to go home because he loves being around his little sister Phoebe. She is the one person that he can truly talk to and she is the most important person in his life. Phoebe also adores her older brother. She accepts him for who he is, flaws and all. Holden and Phoebe are similar and different in their physical appearance, character traits, and the ways they contribute to the novel. Holden looks fairly mature and, as stated in the novel, can usually get drinks due to his height and gray hair. However, Phoebe is and looks like a child. She represents childhood innocence. Holden looks older than he is and is becoming an adult. He struggles with this as he misses being a child, but he also seems to enjoy some of the benefits of his independence as an “adult.” These similarities and differences are not only external, but internal as well. The siblings share several similar traits that become evident throughout the novel. Holden and Phoebe are both generous as they offer their money to others that While many argue that Holden Caulfield from The Catcher in the Rye does not deviate from the traditional anti-hero attributes and, therefore, does not display any prominent change, an argument can be made to the contrary. Holden Caulfield goes through some noticeable character development and is in a better place emotionally at the end of the book because he speaks with Phoebe. His meeting with Phoebe and Phoebe's message to him shows him a youth's perspective on his world, rather than the superficial sincerity of his elderly professor and his favorite teacher that makes advances on him. Additionally, him being able to successfully communicate with a member of his own family puts him in a better place. His time with her lets him see his own self-image of a “catcher in the rye.” By, Holden has been able to change and will be able to change even more in the future. Phoebe was Holden's push in the right direction. By directly asking, “name one thing [that you like]” (220), she is forcing him to think about changing his ways. While just thinking about change may not seem like a lot, it's a lot more than he's done already. While Spencer, Antolini, and Phoebe all give him virtually the same advice, he only listens to Phoebe. She makes Holden reconsider his actions and his aspirations, causing him to come to terms with his desire of being a “catcher in the rye,” keeping children from falling off of a cliff. This represents him wanting to keep...show more content...All throughout the book, Holden is trying to find someone to listen to him. He even paid a sex worker just so he could talk with her. “Old Phoebe didn't say anything, but she was listening. I could tell by the back of her neck that she was listening. She always listens when you tell her something” (218). By finally being able to communicate to someone and have them actually listen, Holden is finally able to

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