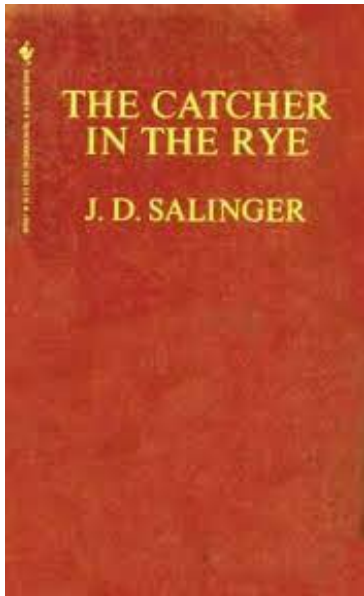


School of the Arts
English 2
2024-2025 Summer Reading Selection



***The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger, 1951**

This novel significantly helped kick off the counterculture movement in America after World War II. It challenged long held American values and asked questions that would be taken up by Ralph Ellison a year later in *Invisible Man* as well as Jack Kerouac in *On the Road*, Ken Kesey in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and Joseph Heller in *Catch 22*. Later Bob Dylan would raise similar questions in songs such as “Blowin’ in the Wind,” “Ballad of a Thin Man” and “It’s Alright Ma, I’m Only Bleedin’.” It introduces the first 20th Century literary teenage rebel, Holden Caulfield, who may have inspired the sensitive, tough guy image (not that he is a tough guy) that became so popular with actors such as James Dean and Marlon Brando. Ironically, the novel is partially responsible for the death of the most prominent counterculture figure of the 1960s and 70s, John Lennon, a founding member of The Beatles.

Instructions:

Read and annotate the book. Annotations should reveal a careful critical reading.

Evaluation:

- 1) Annotations will be graded.
- 2) Students will take an objective test on the book on the first day of class.
- 3) Students will participate in a graded discussion on the book.

Please e-mail questions to John_Cusatis@charleston.k12.sc.us