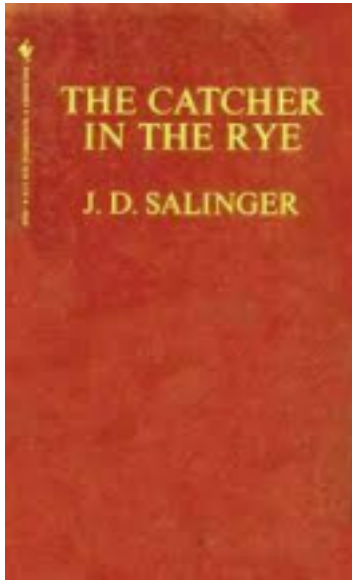


School of the Arts
CP and Honors English II
2021-2022 Summer Reading Selection



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

This novel singlehandedly heralded 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* (1957), Joseph Heller in *Catch 22* (1961) and Ken Kesey in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1962), for starters. Around the same time as Kesey's novel, Bob Dylan began raising similar questions in songs such as "Blowin' in the Wind," "Ballad of a Thin Man" and "It's Alright Ma, I'm Only Bleedin'." *The Catcher in the Rye* introduces the first 20th Century literary teenage rebel, Holden Caulfield, who prefigures the hypersensitive anti-hero that became so popular through actors such as James Dean and Marlon Brando. Ironically, the novel seems to be partially responsible for the death of one of the most influential figures in the American counterculture, John Lennon, whose disturbed murderer claimed had become a "phony," a word the novel's protagonist uses frequently in his critique of modern society.

Instructions:

Read and annotate the novel. Annotations should reveal a careful critical reading. But do not annotate for the sake of annotating. Annotate to document your observations regarding *what* and *how* the novel means: that is pay attention to thematic development and how conflict, character, symbolism, tone, diction, imagery and other literary elements help to convey the novel's major theme.

Evaluation:

- 1) Annotations will be graded (25 points).
- 2) Students will take an objective test on the novel on the first day of class (75

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

