

Name _____

Date _____

Eng. Foundations III – Silver

The Catcher in the Rye – Ch. 3-4

1. What peculiar (strange) piece of information does Holden share in the first lines of chapter 3? Why is it weird that he would tell the reader this? What is the effect of this information on the reader?
 - “I’m the most terrific liar you ever saw. It’s awful” (16).
 - Holden is ironic → reader doesn’t know whether or not to trust Holden
 - CONTRADICTS HIMSELF!!! If it’s so awful, then why lie?!
 - What’s the point of telling us this?

2. What are some of the things about Ackley that bother Holden? Describe at least three.
 - Ackley always touches H’s personal belongings
 - Bad hygiene (“mossy teeth”)
 - Clips his nails all over H’s floor
 - Rude behavior
 - Misplaces others’ belongings
 - “You’re in my light” → doesn’t take the hint and leave
 - You have to YELL and say things MULTIPLE TIMES before Ackley will listen
 - Does he lie?

3. How does Holden describe Stradlater? What are some of the qualities that Holden focuses on?
 - Rich guy
 - Conceited
 - Big guy, very good body, broad shoulders
 - Ladies’ man → dates a lot

4. What did Holden buy while in New York? (Ch. 2) Describe it as specifically as possible.
 - A red hunting hat
 - Covers his ears, forehead, much of his face
 - Keeps him secure, warm, away from others, isolated, safe → reflects his personality: he doesn’t like to be involved with others

5. “I sat down on the [sink] right next to him and started turning the cold water on and off – this nervous habit I have” (26). Why is Holden nervous?
 - Nervous person, failed out of school, etc.

6. Beginning on page 30, what are some of the ways that **Stradlater** speaks about women? How does Holden react to the different comments? (Hint: he does not react the same way each time)

- **Speaks rudely about women**
 - **"I'm through with that pig" (30)**
 - **He uses them**
 - **Doesn't even know Jane Gallagher's name (calls her Jean)**
 - **Sees A LOT of girls**
- **Holden is jealous/upset to hear Stradlater is taking Jane out**

STRADLATER

- **"Secret slob" (27) → looks great, handsome, normal, but he shaves with a rusty, dirty razor**
 - **Concerned about appearances**
 - **PHONY!**
- **Conceited**

7. While Stradlater is shaving, he exclaims, "You're right in my light, Holden, for Chrissake . . . Ya have to stand right there" (31)? Prior to this, Holden was in a similar situation, but the roles were reversed. Find a place in the text that highlights this and discuss why it may be important.

- **Page 21 → Holden told Ackley to get out of his light**
 - **H. says Ackley is so annoying and has no social skills, but he does the same things to Stradlater**

8. Why does Holden remember so much about Jane Gallagher? What detail about her does he focus on the most? What might be the significance to that?

- **Jane & Holden were neighbors two summers ago**
- **She always kept her kings in the back row playing checkers**
- **She loves to dance**
- **Step father is a "booze hound" (drinks a lot) (32), walked around naked in front of Jane**
 - ***Introduced to adult things too early***
- **"She had a lousy childhood. I'm not kidding" (32) → bad childhood**
- **H. doesn't go say hi, even though she's so close!**
 - **Shy? Nervous?**
 - **Scared? Embarrassed?**
 - **Doesn't want to express his feelings**
 - **Doesn't want to face any changes that may have occurred between them**