



The Catcher in the Rye

by J. D. Salinger

In a Nutshell

The Catcher in the Rye, a novel narrated by main character and hero Holden Caulfield, is the story of Holden's life in the few days after being expelled from his Pennsylvania prep school. Published in 1951 by [J.D. Salinger](#), *The Catcher in the Rye* has been banned more times than you want to count by zealous parents and educators. Not that anybody's *surprised* by this (because of the profanity, sex, alcohol abuse, prostitution - need we go on?), but interestingly, it's also frequently used as part of high school English classes. With more than 60 million copies sold to date, it's one of the world's top sellers (accordingly, it's been translated into many languages, including Russian, Spanish, German, and Japanese). *The Catcher in the Rye* is close to J.D. Salinger's heart; he has never allowed it to be produced as a film.

A lot of mystery and controversy surrounds J.D. Salinger. It seems he stopped publishing his work just when he was peaking as an author, and since then has been essentially a social recluse, granting no interviews and making no public appearances whatsoever. Some people think he's sort of a Holden Caulfield himself. *The Catcher in the Rye* ended up as an emblem of counterculture in the 1950s and 60s - a symbol of alienation and isolation for the disillusioned and restless post-war generation. Salinger's own isolation from society only amplifies the mystery and allure of this important book.

Why Should I Care?

Coming soon!