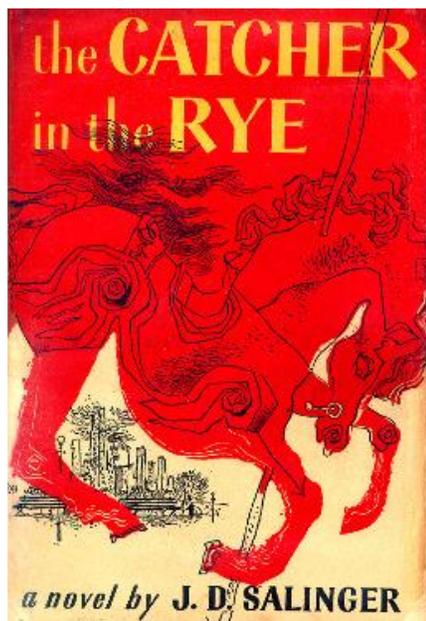


AP Literature and Composition Summer 2021 Reading Assignment



The book is J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*. This is a relatively easy read, which is not to say it is a simple book - it is a well-regarded literary classic that students tend to enjoy.

As you read, look for patterns, consider literary elements (such as imagery, symbolism, figurative language, characterization, etc.), and ask yourself what themes the author develops. If you do these things, express your ideas clearly, and edit your writing carefully, you'll be good to go. Here are the assignment details:

1. Read the book. Yes, **the book** – not Sparknotes, etc.!
2. Type the following things up:
 - a. A well-developed and edited paragraph (at least 400 words) in which you explain why you would or wouldn't recommend the novel. Be specific in referring to aspects of the book you find worthy of recommendation (or not), and explain your reasoning.
 - b. A two-column journal with 10 entries. See the example below.

This is key: DO NOT PLAGIARIZE! I want **your** ideas. Perfection is not the expectation; reading closely is.

2-Column Journal Directions: In the left column, insert a quotation and a page number. Right next to it (in the right column), provide your analysis. If you find significant patterns or recurring ideas, provide some analysis of these. For example, if you recognize a symbol in the book, indicate that in the right column and *explain how* you know that/what it symbolizes. Other candidates for commentary in the right column: significant character development (fully explain), a significant aspect of setting (and why it's important), an example of irony (explain), an effective example of figurative language (and how it's significant), etc. *Do not merely summarize the text*. Each entry should be a minimum of 50 words.

The following example is of one entry for a play – King Lear by William Shakespeare. Here, the Act, Scene, and Lines have been provided rather than the page number. Otherwise, this is the type of thing you should do in your own 2-Column Journal for The Catcher in the Rye. Remember – not just summary.

"O dear son Edgar, The food of thy abused father's wrath, Might I but live to see thee in my touch, I'd say I had eyes again."

- Act 4, Scene 1, Lines 22-25

This is Gloucester expressing despair about the way he has completely misjudged his son Edgar. Earlier, Gloucester is convinced Edgar wants to kill him and gain all his wealth; he even decides to have Edgar killed. Though the audience knows Edgar is actually a loyal son who would never plot against his father, Gloucester does not. So these are highly ironic lines because it is only after Gloucester is blinded that he finally "sees" the truth: it would never be Edgar's intention to harm or take advantage of his father. These lines are also another example of the motif of sight / vision.

This is due when you return to school next academic year – I'm looking forward to seeing you then!