

Topic Page: [Catcher in the Rye](#)

Definition: **Catcher in the Rye, The** from *The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide*

Novel by US writer J D Salinger, published in 1951, about a young man growing up and his fight to maintain his integrity in a 'phoney' adult world; it has become an international classic.

weblinks

[Catcher in the Rye Guide](#)

Summary Article: **Catcher in the Rye, The**

From *Brewer's Dictionary of Modern Phrase and Fable*

The first novel (1951) by J. D. Salinger (b.1919), about a mixed-up teenager called Holden Caulfield. The character first appeared in a story published in the *New Yorker* in 1946, in which year Salinger withdrew an earlier version of the book. The title of this Campus classic is alluded to in ch xxii, when Holden's younger sister goads him into naming 'something you'd like to be'. It transpires that he has misread the line in the song by Robert Burns (1759-96), 'Gin a body meet a body/Comin thro' the rye', as 'catch a body':

'I keep picturing all these little kids playing some game in this big field of rye. ... And I'm standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. ... I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff. ... I'd just be the catcher in the rye. I know it's crazy.'

APA

[Chicago](#)

[Harvard](#)

[MLA](#)

Catcher in the rye, the. (2009). In A. Room, & E. C. Brewer (Eds.), *Brewer's dictionary of modern phrase and fable* (2nd ed.). London, UK: Cassell. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/catcher_in_the_rye

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Chicago

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MLA

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