**For this unit, you will be keeping a reading journal that includes reflections and observations of both Holden’s world and yours.**

**This journal will be collected twice during the unit: after Chapter 15 and again at the conclusion of the novel. Each journal is worth 5 points. EVEN IF YOU ARE ABSENT, you are responsible for completing the journal topic for each day.**

**Chapter 1 (pages 1-6)**

What is your first impression of Holden? Choose a quotation from this chapter that you feel captures his personality. Now, think more about first impressions. Do you tend to make good first impressions on others? Do you judge others by your first impression of them? How difficult is it to overcome a first impression?

**Chapter 2 & 3 (pages 6-26)**

JD Salinger’s diction (word choice) for Holden is unique and authentic. His voice is easily distinguished among other literary characters. What types of words does he use? What is his tone? Is he grammatically correct? What do you find interesting/unique/distinguishable about Holden’s style of speech? Do you like or dislike it and why?

**Chapters 4-6 (pages 26-46)**

Have you ever noticed how a memory can trigger another? This is called memory association and it is what Holden does through most of the novel. Sometimes two ideas that have nothing to do with one another can be connected. For example, the baseball mitt Holden keeps with the green writing on the fingers, reminds Holden of his little brother, Allie. What does this memory of Allie reveal about Holden’s character? Does it help to give you any insight into why Holden is the way he his? Now think about an object that means something to you. What memory do you connect with it? Write about this memory.

**Chapters 7& 8 (pages 46-58)**

The beginning of these chapters shows a fist fight between Holden and his suitemate, Stradlater. Stradlater takes out a girl, Jane Gallagher, that Holden once knew, and had fond memories of. What about Jane does Holden like? What does he mean when he says, “She kept all her kings in the back row”? How is Jane different from other girls that Holden associates with? Why does he punch Stradlater? Have you ever been in a similar situation? Had to watch someone you care about be with the wrong person? How did you handle it?

**Chapters 9-11 (pages 58-80)**

Throughout the novel, Holden attempts to call many people for help. In this section, he thinks about calling Jane, and doesn’t. He thinks of calling his kid sister, Phoebe, and never does. Why do you think this is so? In your own experience, is there a particular person that you think of as your “life-line”? Who would you call for help when you needed it the most, and why?

**Chapters 12-13 (pages 81-98)**

Numerous times in the novel, Holden refers to the people he knows and meets as “fakes,” “phonies,” “morons,” and “jerks.” Why do you think Holden is so hostile towards other people? Are these people really as bad as Holden makes them out to be? IS Holden truly surrounded by a world of terrible people? Holden is what we call in literature, an “unreliable narrator,” which means, that we cannot fully believe or trust his point of view. Holden only tells us what he wants us to believe. Look specifically at chapters 12 and 13 find a moment where you think Holden may not be telling the whole truth. What advantage does he get from lying?

**Chapter 14-15 (98-113)**

These chapters contain a lots of Holden’s thoughts on religion. He speaks about Judas and the apostles, Catholicism, and even discusses death and suicide. Is he truly suicidal or just talking through his anger and grief? Are Holden’s feelings rare and unique or all part of the natural growing-up process? Have you ever faltered in your religious conviction or faith? Have you ever questioned your place in the world? Can you relate at all to what Holden is saying in these chapters?