

Catcher in the Rye – Chapter 2 Study Guide Questions

1. Describe Holden's physical appearance. Be as specific as possible.
2. What does Holden describe as ironic about his appearance? Why is it ironic?
3. Describe Holden's personality and write down in your notebook each line where Holden describes himself, for instance on page 9 he says, "I shake my head quite a lot. 'Boy!' I said. I also say 'Boy!' quite a lot. Partly because I have a lousy vocabulary and partly because I act quite young for my age sometimes." Here we learn that he acts immature. His descriptions of himself are quite important, so try not to miss any!.
4. In what ways do you think Holden is unreliable as a narrator? Find lines from the text that show how he says one thing when he means another.
5. Why did Holden quit Elkton Hills?
6. In the conversation between Holden and Mr. Spencer, who appears to be comforting whom? How is this ironic?
7. What do the people whom Holden seems to like have in common?
8. Why does Holden think about the ducks in Central Park when he is with Mr. Spencer?