

## *The Catcher in the Rye* – Holden and the people around him

### **the “phoneys”**

(people Holden detests)

Selma Thurmer’s father:  
(headmaster at Pencey Prep)  
“a phony slob” (6)

Mr Haas:  
(headmaster at Elkton Hills)  
“the phoniest bastard I ever met” (19)

Ossenburger:  
(donates money to the school)  
“big phony bastard” (23)

Jane’s mother’s new husband:  
“some booze hound” (42)

> **adult authority**

### **“neutral” characters**

(people Holden neither hates nor loves)

Robert Tichener and Paul Campbell:  
“They were nice guys, especially Tichener” (7)

Mr Spencer:  
Holden bothers to “stop by” (11) and say  
goodbye to him. (chapter 2)

Robert Ackley:  
“peculiar” (26); looks “awful” (26); “could be  
aggravating” (33); “You had to feel a little  
sorry for [him]” (51)

Ward Stradlater:  
“superior attitude”; “conceited”; but “gener-  
ous” (32); “He was at least a pretty friendly  
guy, Stradlater. It was partly a phony kind of  
friendly, but at least he always said hello to  
Ackley and all.” (34) “handsome” (36); “un-  
scrupulous” (52); “a stupid moron” (57)

Mal Brossard:  
“this friend of mine” (47)

> **fellow pupils and a teacher**

### **people held in high esteem by Holden**

(people he respects and admires)

D.B. (Holden’s brother):  
“a regular writer [...] *The Secret Goldfish* [...] It  
killed me.” (4)

Selma Thurmer:  
“I liked her” (5)

Sally Hayes:  
“this girl I used to go around with in New  
York” (27)

Jane Gallagher:  
“I couldn’t get her off my mind.” (42)

Allie:  
“You’d have liked him.” (49)  
“the most intelligent [...] He was also the nic-  
est, in lots of ways. He never got mad at any-  
body.” (50)

> **family members, girls**