

# *The Catcher in the Rye* – Chapter 1

## **Narrator and point of view**

The novel is told by a first person-narrator (*I*-narrator).

Holden describes what he himself sees and experiences, providing his own commentary on the events and people he describes.

## **Protagonist**

The major character of the novel is the narrator, a boy called Holden Caulfield.

## **Tone**

Holden's tone varies between disgust, cynicism, bitterness all expressed in colloquial style.

## **Tense**

The story is told in the past tense.

## **Setting (Place)**

Holden begins his story in Pennsylvania, at his former school, Pencey Prep. He then recounts his adventures in New York City.

At the time of narrating the story, Holden is somewhere "to take it easy" (3) and is visited by his brother "practically every week end". (3) He expects to be able to "go home next month maybe". (3-4) Holden is at this place "for all these goddam checkups and stuff" (8) even though he says "I'm pretty healthy, though". (8)

## **Topic of the story**

"I'll just tell you about this madman stuff that happened to me around last Christmas" (3)

## **Plot (storyline)**

### **Incident No 1**

Holden leaves all the fencing equipment on the underground. As a consequence the fencing meet cannot take place; everybody is deeply disappointed because of him. The team ostracises him. (6)

### **Incident No 2**

Holden gets "kicked out" of Pencey Prep for he has flunked four subjects and has not applied himself. (6-7)