

J. D. Salinger

CATCHER IN THE RYE

APPRAISAL OF THE BOOK

The novel »The catcher in the rye« was written by Jerome David Salinger. It was first published in 1951.

It is about a teenager named Holden Caullfield who runs away from his school. Nobody understands him and he feels very lonely. His idol is his dead brother Allie who died because of leukaemia. When I was reading, I had a feeling that he is also depressed all the time. He is quite smart, but his problem is that he can't adapt himself to the school systems. That's the reason that he was thrown from several schools.

His parents don't know that he's run away from the Pencey school, so he can't go home. He goes to the New York. He visits several night-bars and talks to adults. In the city he hears song »If a lady catches a body in the rye«. While he is »horsing« around the bars, he remembers his sister Phoebe and decides to speak with her. But she advises him to return to the school. He has a conversation with his sister about essence of life.

At the end he brakes and he is sent to school for mentally sick people.

When I start reading this book, I thought that's the most boring book after the »Hundred years of German humour«, but soon I started enjoy it. The long conversations were still boring but I survived. I haven't got any problems with reading and understanding the book.