*Catcher in the Rye* Reading Questions, Ch. 1 -3

1. Who is Holden Caulfield?
2. According to Holden, how does Pencey Prep differ from its advertisements?
3. Who is Selma Thurmer, and why did Holden like her?
4. What advice did Dr. Thurmer give to Holden?
5. What is the feeling Holden gets when he crosses Route 204 on his way to visit Mr. Spencer? What do you think he means by this?
6. What was Holden thinking about while he said the following: “I told him I was a real moron, and all that stuff. I told him how I would’ve done exactly the same thing if I’d been in his place, and how most people didn’t appreciate how tough it is being a teacher.”
7. What does Ackley usually do when he comes to visit Holden?
8. What does Holden say in defense of Stradlater?

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What is your first impression of Holden? Choose a quotation from chapters 1 -3 that you feel captures Holen’s personality. Write out the passage (or effectively use ellipses to capture its essence) and follow it with your analysis.

Understanding Holden is often an examination in exaggeration or contradiction. Where do you see Holden contradicting himself or exaggerating? What might this mean about Holden as a person?