*Catcher in the Rye* Reading Questions, Ch. 1-4

1. Who is Holden Caulfield?
2. What is the reality of Pencey Prep in contrast to the advertisements, as seen by Holden?
3. Who is Selma Thurmer, and why did Holden like her?
4. Why was Holden trying to “feel” some kind of good−bye?
5. How popular was the sport of polo at Pencey Prep?
6. What advice did Dr. Thurmer give to Holden?
7. Was Pencey Prep really the fourth school from which Holden was asked to leave? Explain your answer.
8. Why did Holden write Mr. Spencer a note at the end of his examination paper?
9. 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.”
10. Who is Ossenburger? What is his speech about?
11. Who are Holden’s favorite authors?
12. What does Ackley usually do when he comes to visit Holden?
13. Give an example of something which Ackley considers very funny.
14. What does Holden say in defense of Stradlater?
15. According to Stradlater, what constitutes a good composition?
16. What does Holden have to say about Stradlater’s sense of humor?
17. What was unique about the way Jane Gallagher played checkers?
18. What does Holden say about Jane Gallagher’s home life that piqued Stradlater’s curiosity?
19. Why is Holden glad to see Ackley return to his room?