**CITR Reading Guide Part III – chapters 15-26**

**Chapter 15**

How does Holden treat the nuns and why do you think he behaves this way?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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Why does Holden think it spoils a conversation if someone asks what religion he is? What does his reluctance suggest about his values/attitudes?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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Holden likes Mercutio better than he likes Romeo and Juliet. Think back to Shakespeare’s play: what might Holden’s preference for Mercutio tell you about Holden himself?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 16**

Why does Holden call Sally if he thinks she’s a phony? What does Sally represent as compared to Jane? What do both contribute to our understanding of Holden’s character and the themes of the novel?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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Give a few examples that illustrate Holden’s feelings about/treatment of little kids. Why do you think he behaves this way with children and not other people?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 17**

Why does Holden want to take off with Sally now instead of after college? How does Sally respond to him? Why can’t she understand or relate to Holden?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 18**

Why does Holden think the woman who cried through the movie is a phony? What does this incident add to our understanding of Holden’s character?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 19**

What does Holden think of Carl Luce? What do his opinions of Luce reveal about Holden himself?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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Why does it bother Holden when Luce refers to his (Luce’s) ex-girlfriend as the “Whore of New Hampshire”? What does this episode tell you about Holden and his attitude towards people (girls, specifically)?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 20**

Is what happens to Phoebe's record symbolic in any way? Explain.

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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Again, Holden brings up the ducks in central park. Why does it matter where the ducks go? Why is Holden so interested in them? What might the ducks have to do with the major themes of the novel – what could they represent?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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What information does Holden finally tell us about Allie's funeral? What difference does it make in terms of the way Holden’s dealt with his brother’s death?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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What does Holden say about Allie that contradicts all his other statements about being an atheist? What does this contradiction reveal about Holden’s character?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 21**

What does Holden find so interesting about Phoebe's note-book? What does the notebook suggest about Phoebe, and what does Holden’s interest/amusement reveal about him and his feelings for his sister?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 22**

What does it tell you about Holden when Phoebe says, “you don’t like anything that’s happening”?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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Why does Holden think about James Castle when Phoebe asks him to name one thing that he likes a lot? Why does he admire Castle? How might his admiration be cause for concern?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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What does Holden tell Phoebe he'd like to be? Describe his imagined responsibilities in this position. If it were possible, would this be a good job for Holden? Why or why not? Why do you think Salinger used this phrase as the title for his novel?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 23**

What does Phoebe do that makes Holden cry? Why would it make him cry?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 24**

Why did Holden fail his speech class? Is this significant in terms of understanding his character?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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What evidence in this chapter suggests that Holden is deteriorating physically as well as emotionally?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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What does Holden say about hating people, such as Ackley and Stradlater? What do these comments add to our understanding of his character and the themes of the novel?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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How does Antolini upset and scare Holden? Can you think of any evidence from the rest of the novel to suggest that Holden might be unreasonably suspicious and/or nervous about this episode?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 25**

Later, after he has had time to think about it, what does Holden think about Antolini? Does it matter? What’s the most significant outcome of this incident – what has Holden lost (even if Antolini’s actions were totally innocent)? Explain your answer.

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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What strange feeling does Holden start to have when he steps off of curbs? Why would he call on Allie for help? What is happening to Holden during this episode?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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With all the bad language that Holden uses, why would he be so upset that curse words are written on a school wall?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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Why is it so important to Holden that Phoebe not be mad at him? Can you relate these feelings to his past and to Allie?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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Is the carousel symbolic? Explain why or why not. How does this scene resolve (or fail to resolve) the conflicts and questions Holden has been grappling with throughout the novel?

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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**Chapter 26**

At the conclusion of the novel, where is Holden? What do you think will happen to him? Use evidence from the novel to justify your guess.

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| *Relevant Pg. #s/Evidence* | *Analysis/Commentary – be sure to address ALL points of the question(s)!* |
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