

### **The catcher in the rye**

*We always had the same meal on Saturday nights at Pencey. It was supposed to be a big deal, because they gave you steak. I'll bet a thousand bucks the reason they did that was because a lot of guys' parents came up to school on Sunday, and old Thurmer probably figured everybody's mother would ask their darling boy what he had for dinner last night, and he'd say, "Steak". What a racket. You should've seen the steaks. They were these little hard, dry jobs that you could hardly even cut. You always got these very lumpy mashed potatoes on steak night, and for dessert you got Brown Betty, which nobody ate, except maybe the little kids in the lower school that didn't know any better -and guys like Ackley that ate everything.*

*It was nice though, when we got out of the dining-room. There were about three inches of snow on the ground, and it was still coming down like a madman. It looked pretty as hell, and we all started throwing snowballs and horsing around all over the place. It was very childish, but everybody was really enjoying themselves.*

*I didn't have a date or anything, so I and this friend of mine, Mal Brossard, that was on the wrestling team, decided we'd take a bus in to Agerstown and have a hamburger and maybe see a lousy movie. Neither of us felt like sitting around on our ass all night. I asked Mal if he minded if Ackley came along with us. The reason I asked was because Ackley never did anything on Saturday night, except stay in his room and squeeze his pimples or something.*

The catcher in the rye.

J. D. Salinger.

### **QUESTIONS.**

1. What was the steak like?
2. What did they have for dessert?
3. Why was it nice when they left the dining-room?
4. Did he have a date?
5. Who did he go out with?
6. What do you think of boarding schools? (5 or 6 lines)
7. Vocabulary.
  - Buck
  - Kid
  - Lumpy
  - Wrestling