

## Mrs. Von Haden's Sample Questions & Quote Analysis: Pg. 1-16

### Level 1

1.) What is one of the first things readers notice about how Holden narrates? (What makes him a little different than most first-person narrators?)

Extra level 1: Also, what do you notice about his personality based on the types of comments he makes about people and his surroundings?

### Level 2

2.) When Holden calls his brother, D.B. a "prostitute" at the top of page 2, what does he mean by that? What is the connotation here, taking Hollywood into account as well?

3.) Do you think Mr. Spencer did a good job showing concern for Holden? Why or why not?

4.) Holden tends to interject his opinion often in his own mind while conversations play out--do you find this to be a likeable trait? Why or why not?

### Level 3

5.) Common slang used by Holden includes things like, "Boy!" "That killed me," and "phonies." What kind of slang do we have today that hold similar meanings?

**Quote/Small Passage:** "I'm pretty sure he yelled 'Good luck!' at me. I hope not. I hope to hell not. I'd never yell 'Good luck!' at anybody. It sounds terrible, when you think about it" (16).

**My Analysis:** Holden's view on such a simple, meant-to-be positive phrase highlights his pessimism. That said, I can understand why he might think telling someone "good luck" in any circumstance might sound bad. If someone needs luck to succeed, it discredits their talents, skills, or other traits to be able to push through an ordeal through the implication that they need to be lucky to succeed. Although Holden really might need some luck in his future, I think that he sees this statement as undermining his own abilities.