

Summary of *Catcher in the Rye*, c13-24

Holden feels ashamed for leaving Ernie's, and walks back to his hotel. His mind wanders to his lost gloves at Pencey Prep, but he admits he's afraid of confrontation. Taking the elevator to his room, the operator offers him a prostitute for five dollars, which Holden, feeling depressed, accepts. Holden believes that his cowardice has kept him from ever sleeping with anyone, as he believes women want someone who are assertive. Sunny, the prostitute, eventually arrives and tries to seduce Holden, but he makes up an excuse about not being able to have sex because he's recovering from an operation. He pays her the five he thinks she's owed, even though she demands more money, and she leaves. Holden reminisces some more about Allie, and feels like praying, but his dislike for organized religion stops him. Suddenly, the elevator operator arrives—the pimp, Maurice—demanding the extra five dollars Sunny asked for. He pins Holden against a wall while Sunny steals the money from Holden's wallet, and after being provoked, punches him in the stomach. Holden imagines extracting his revenge in movie-like fashion, but eventually only manages to drag himself to bed.

The next day, Holden calls and makes a date with Sally Hayes for that afternoon, afterwards checking out of the hotel and leaving his bags at the Station. He worries about being yelled at by his father for losing things, but then starts to worry about his mother, who hadn't felt well since Allie died. Holden is afraid what the news that he was kicked out would do to her. Holden gets lunch at a sandwich bar, where he meets two nuns and begins to discuss with them. Lamenting how the world is driven by money at Pencey, he forces them to take \$10 as a donation, even though he needs the money for his date.

Leaving the bar, he goes to a record store to buy Phoebe a record. He sees a boy singing "Coming Thro' the Rye", which cheers him up enough to encourage him to call Jane, though he hangs

up once her mother picks up. Holden begins to want to talk with Phoebe, and goes to the back to see if she's there, as she often roller-skates on Saturdays. He meets a girl that knows Phoebe, and says she went on a trip to a museum the previous day. Holden decides to go to the museum himself, noticing that every time he had changed, the museum remained the same. Sally arrives at the Baltimore Hotel at two, but Holden forgives her for being late because of how pretty she looks. They make out in the taxi to the theater. Despite seeing her flirt with other boys, Holden asks her if she'd like to go ice skating. Taking a break, Holden begins to rant to Sally about everything he finds wrong with the world, which Sally isn't very helpful about. Eventually he goes as far as insulting her and making her cry, and despite his attempts to cheer her up, he eventually leaves without her.

Holden goes to a drugstore and again thinks about calling Jane, but then starts to think about how girls react towards guys. He finally calls Jane, but nobody answers. He then calls Carl Luce, a boy three years older than him from the Whooton School who taught him about sex, and arranges to meet with him for drinks that night. To pass the time, he sees a movie at the Music Hall, and while he doesn't enjoy the performance, he remembers he and Allie used to love watching the kettledrum player, since he took so much pride in what he did. Holden begins to think about the army, but from what he heard from D.B., he decides he never wants to enter the military. At the bar, Luce meets up with Holden, who begins to ask questions about sex that Luce refuses to answer. He suggests therapy, and eventually, being fed up with Holden's immaturity, he leaves.

Holden gets very drunk, and starts to make late-night phone calls to Sally Hays, making she and her grandmother angry. He then tries desperately to make dates with the lounge singer

and the hat-check girl. Finally, he leaves and walks around the duck pond in Central Park to see if the ducks were still there. He accidentally breaks the record he bought Phoebe, and begins to get upset, and his hair begins to freeze from the water he splashed in it. He imagines his own funeral, and recollects that he never went to Allie's. Wanting to talk to Phoebe and running out of money, Holden decides to risk walking home.

Arriving, he sneaks into his family's apartment, and finds Phoebe sleeping in D.B.'s room, noticing she looks peaceful in her sleep, unlike adults. He leafs through her schoolbooks, and sees the imaginative scribbles and notes she's made. He finally wakes up Phoebe, who is more than happy to see him. She begins talking excessively about her school play, a movie she saw, about D.B., bullies, and that their parents weren't home. Holden tries to explain why he left school, but it takes many tries to get Phoebe to listen. Holden begins venting to her, talking about why he failed out, and being challenged to name one thing he liked, he names Allie. Noting that Allie was dead, she asks what Holden wants to do with his life, to which he responds with "If a body catch a body comin' through the rye," how he'd want to catch children from falling off a cliff-edge, preventing them from growing old.

He leaves the room to call Mr. Antolini, an old English teacher he had, who is shocked that Holden had been kicked out of school and who invites Holden to stay at his house. Holden mentions how he was the only one to approach or care for James Castle after his suicide. Holden goes back and asks Phoebe to dance, until their parents arrive home, and he has to hide in the closet. Their mother tucks Phoebe in, and he then says goodbye to her, telling her his plan of leaving New York and going out west. She lends him her Christmas money, and he leaves for Mr. Antolini's, giving Phoebe his red hunting hat. There, he sees Mr. and Mrs. Antolini had just

finished a dinner party, and Mr. Antolini had been drinking. They begin talking, about school and his expulsion. Mr. Antolini begins to tell Holden that he's worried that he's headed for a serious fall that will leave him frustrated, especially against the people he hated at his old school. Mr. Antolini goes on to see say that if Holden applies himself, he'll learn a lot about himself, too. He sees Holden is tired, and makes the couch into a bed for him. Suddenly, though, during Holden's sleep, he wakes up and sees Mr. Antolini's hand stroking his head. He claims that it was nothing, but Holden thinks that he was coming on to him, and runs out of the apartment.

He goes to Grand Central Station to sleep on a bench. That morning, he walks down Fifth avenue, watching the children and feeling increasingly anxious. He decides he'll leave New York, hitchhike west, and never go to home or to school again. He goes to Phoebe's school and writes her a note to meet him at the Museum of Art so he can return her money. There, he sees vandalism on a wall saying "Fuck You", which he imagines someone will write on his tombstone. He leaves to go look for Phoebe, but passes out on the way there. Phoebe arrives with a suitcase and pleads with Holden to take her with him, but he says that she can't go with her, making Phoebe angry at him. Holden admits he won't go away, and offers to take her to the zoo. Though still angry on each other, they finally come together at the carousel, which Holden convinces Phoebe to ride. Watching her go around it, having been forgiven, he suddenly feels incredibly happy.

Holden ends the story by refusing to say what happened afterwards, though he went home, became sick, and was sent to the rest home he was in at the present. He is to go to a new school in the fall and he thinks he'll try and apply himself for once. He wishes he didn't vent so much, even to D.B., because he's started to miss everyone.