

Chapters 21-26: Passage Analysis

1. Please read and analyze your assigned passage.
2. Open a Google Doc and write about the passage. Follow the prompts below.
3. Please write at least 5 sentences for each question below.
4. Include at least one direct quotation in your passage analysis.
5. Submit your passage analysis on my website.

1. Summarize: What happens in this passage?
2. What do we learn about Holden? What insight do you get into his story from this passage?
3. What technique(s) does Salinger use in this passage? What does it emphasize or help us understand?
4. What conclusions can you draw based on this passage? Why is this passage significant?

P 159-61	P 176-178	"I went around the room, very quiet and all" to "So I woke her up."
P 168-9	P 186-7	"It would've made you puke" to "I can't explain."
P 170-1	P 187-9	"All right," I said. to "Just because I didn't know him too well."
P 172-3	P 190-1	"I wasn't listening, though." to "I know it's crazy."
P 187-8	P 206-8	"All right." to "Boy, I felt so damn tired all of a sudden."
P 201-2	P 221-2	"While I was walking up the stairs..." to "It's impossible."
P 211-12	P 232-4	"Go ahead, then." to "God, I wish you could've been there."
P 213-14	P 234	"That's all I'm going to tell you." to "...you start missing everybody."

MODEL: See reverse of this page.

Passage Analysis: Chapter 1

Pages 1-2

1. In this passage, there is no action. Holden, the narrator, reflects and shares his inner thoughts for the entire passage. First, he mentions how boring it is to talk about his “lousy childhood” and how he doesn’t really want to talk about his past. He shares that he got run-down and is somewhere taking it easy. He doesn’t tell the reader where exactly he is. He also mentions his brother DB and how he works near Hollywood in the movies. He says DB is “being a prostitute” in Hollywood. Finally, he mentions that he wants to start telling his story the day he left Pencey Prep.
2. In this passage, we learn that Holden is not the most positive person. He mentions that some “madman stuff” happened to him, so we know that something bad probably happened. We also learn that he does not want to tell all of the truth right away. I think he is pretty cynical about life and the world, but he doesn’t really want to explain exactly why. Also, he hates the movies and isn’t really impressed with his school, Pencey Prep. Overall, he’s not super optimistic about much at all.
3. Salinger uses 1st and 2nd person narrative voice, with an emphasis on Holden’s inner thoughts. This narrative voice lets us see and understand Holden’s point of view, his cynicism, and *most* of his thoughts. He also seems to be an unreliable narrator, since he won’t tell us exactly where he is right now. This narrative voice makes me feel like he is talking to me, but not telling me everything. He also seems to use a metaphor when he says that DB is a ‘prostitute.’ I think he means that DB is ‘selling himself’ to the movies, not really a traditional prostitute. Obviously, Holden does not like the movies!
4. Based on this passage, Holden is holding something back but I don’t know why. I think he has had something happen in his life that made him end up in the “crummy place” he mentions. This passage also reveals that Holden doesn’t like to talk about some parts of his life (like his past) but he also does like to talk and judge. He clearly has had some negative experiences that he wants to tell us about. Holden seems like a young cynic who has strong opinions.

