

**"Catching on to Catcher in the Rye"**  
**lessons on The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger**

## Student Samples

**Page Down for samples of various assignments**

Taken from the classroom of Sandy Scragg  
[www.sandyscragg.com](http://www.sandyscragg.com)  
Murry Bergtraum High School  
New York City, 2002

**The composition Holden wrote for Stradlater about Allie's baseball mitt:**

*(Written by an ESL student. This is a first draft, mostly uncorrected.*

*Students exchanged papers, but few corrections were made to the text on this version.)*

(This assignment can be found in [Lesson 2](#))

MS. Scragg  
ESB

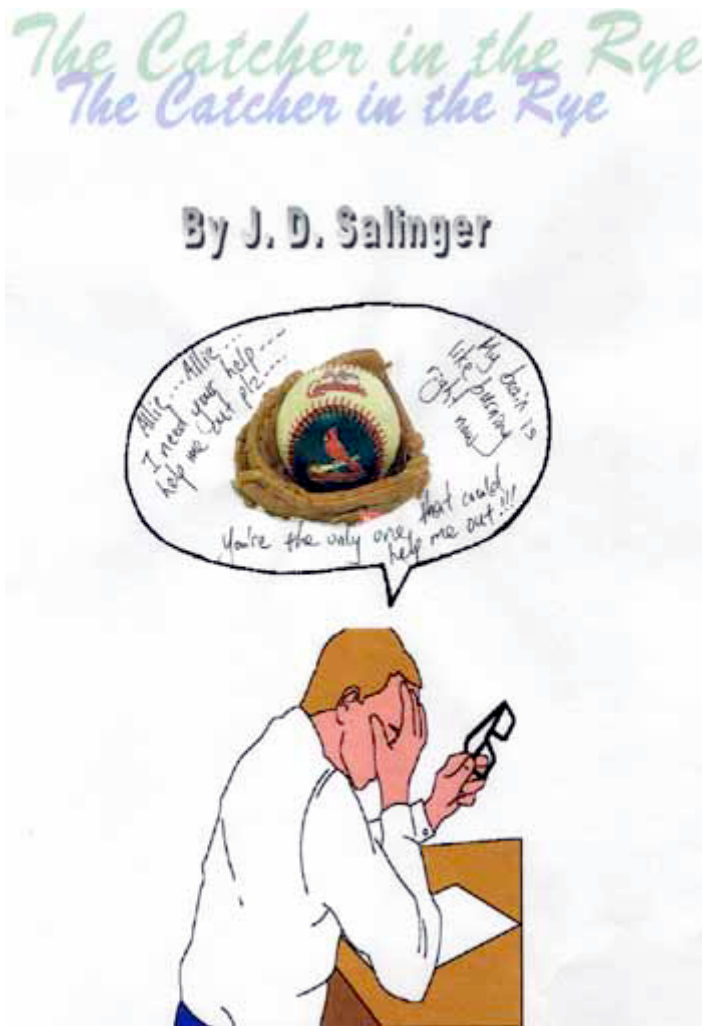
It was brown, old, and dark baseball mitt,  
you can't see how special it is from it outside.  
But it has precious possession for me. no other reason  
only because it's my brother's baseball mitt.

My brother he is the most intelligent one in  
my family. He is nice and gentle, we love him so  
much. Unfortunately he died in few years ago.  
I was crazy with grief after my brother died.  
I broke all the window in the house. My hands were  
cover with gore. I just tried to assuage my grief.  
Maybe that was the maddest time I ever had it  
before. I appreciate from this experience that how you  
feel when you lost a person who you really love. I  
was overwhelmed with sorrow. I have innumerable  
things want to talk to him share with him, because  
he is my only brother my only friend I have. I have  
no one to criticize, but I can really blame the  
God, he ruthless took my brother away from me.  
My heart was gone with him. After he vanished  
from the earth. Suddenly I strunk with panic, I  
feel like feel off from an precipice, it was as hurt  
as I lost my brother. And the Only thing he <sup>has</sup> left  
is his baseball mitt. I cherish it as much as I miss  
him.

**Two re-designed covers for the novel:** (This assignment can be found in [Lesson 6](#).)



*This cover clearly shows one student's illustration of Holden being the "catcher in the rye."*



*This student drew on Holden's depression regarding his brother Allie's death.*

*The baseball mitt shown belonged to Allie and at one point in the novel, Holden writes a composition about this mitt.*

*Students replicated that composition in the assignment above.*

**One of Phoebe's detective stories starting Hazle Weatherfield:**

"The Cafeteria mystery"

It was another day in the life of Hazie Weatherfield. At first she woke up and got dressed to go to school. She didn't want to go that much but she got a final test to do that was very important to pass the grade. When she was arriving to the front of the school, she decided to enter from the back of the school, so that the person who was in charge of the hall wouldn't see that she was running late to class, so she went from the back, there she saw a couple of men carrying big heavy looking bags. She was suspicious, she was ready to investigate but she lost a her clock she was late to class. When it was the time to lunch she saw the same men that were entering the big heavy looking bags to the Cafeteria talking to the lunch ladies. When she was ready to go to pick the lunch from the lunch table the food was funny looking it look awful and small bowl. she lost her appetite when she look at the food, but some kids were eating the food, there were hungry she thought. When she was going home from school she was very suspicious, so she didn't go to her home, she went to the cafeteria to investigate what was going on in the cafeteria. When she arrived in the cafeteria, she was in cognate, she didn't want them to see her, she was very cautious. When she went to investigate she wasn't expecting what she saw in those mysterious big bags, it was gross. She saw expired food, food that was rotten and the lunch lady could give that to the children. Hazie took pictures about the situation and show them to the school board. Then they fired the lunch lady and start giving fresh food to the kids. And they all have to thank the courage and bravery of the younger famous investigator.

*This story was completely fictional and its plot had nothing to do with the novel, except that this is a character that Phoebe invented.*

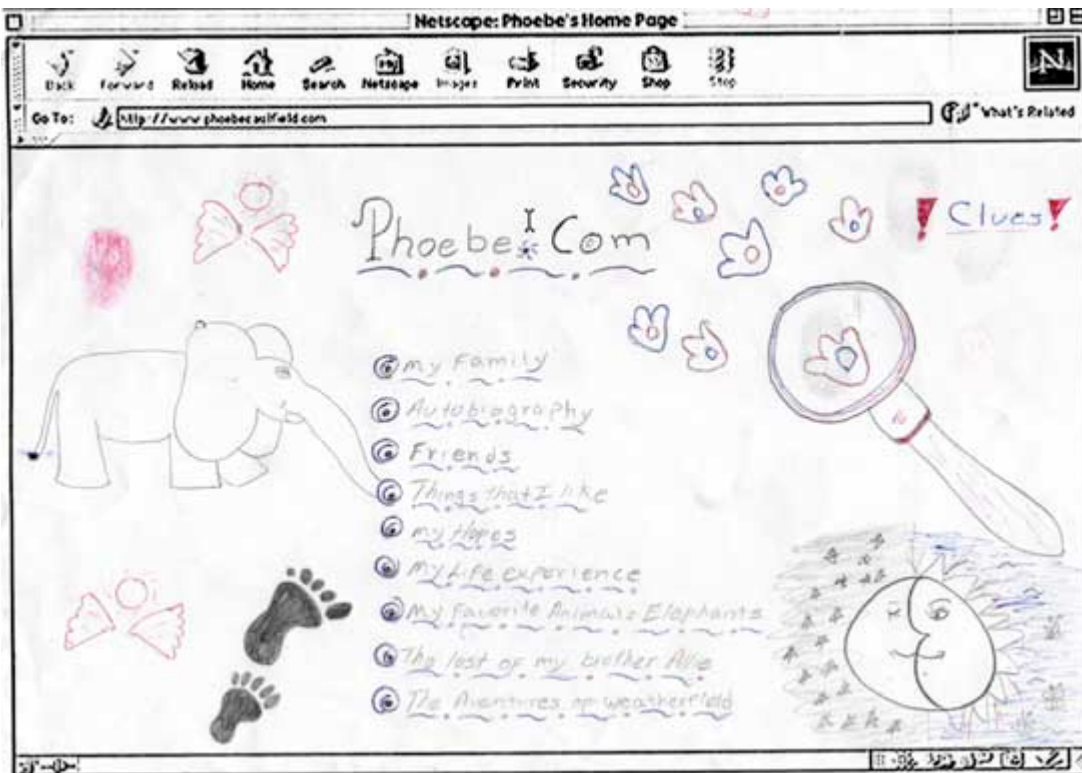
*It was a creative writing assignment, and this was the first draft. This assignment can be found in [Lesson 5](#).*

**If Phoebe had a home page, it might look like...**





...or this:



[These web designs were done on paper using the home page template.

*This assignment can also be found in [Lesson 5](#) ]*

[overview of the unit](#) | [lessons page](#) | [writing assignments](#) | [hotlinks for teachers](#)