

Q/A With J. D. Salinger

Q: Can you tell us a little about your novel?

A: It is basically about a teenager who is uncertain of life. He questions everything he comes across and he could be seen as a very irritating character who is both hard and easy to relate to.

Q: Why did you write a book about a character who is unsure of his life?

A: The reason I wrote this book about Holden, someone who is very lost from his path, is because there are people like this in life, and many books do not touch on the topic of finding the right path in life for you.

Q: what do you think is the right way to find your path?

A: I can't speak for everyone, but my logic behind it is simple. Each person has something that he or she is good at or is interested in. That is the key to finding your way. For example, words are what I'm good at, the ability to relate to the readers is what sets me apart from some of the others. When I wrote this book, it was as much about finding myself as trying to guide some people to find their own path.

Q: So according to you, words are what let you find your way?

A: For me, yes. Not for everyone though. Probably most authors and writers feel the way I feel but other people, such as artists, are probably defined by their paintings or etchings or sculpture.

Q: In your novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*, what role do words play?

A: In my novel, I think that it is more the use of words or lack thereof. For example, Holden's lack of communication with his parents. This lack of communication proves that the process of communication is very important in order to find oneself.

Q: So you are saying that Holdens's seclusion from his family and most of the world around him affected the path he took in life?

A: Exactly. His unstable state of being is the product of him having a broken life. His style of living is directly linked to his inability to confront his past especially his brother's death.