

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

### What Would Holden Do?

**Directions:** Please read the following directions carefully. Write your name, today's date, and hour at the top of this page. Now that we have read *The Catcher in the Rye* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, I'm sure you are wondering who the heck Charlie is writing to. Imagine that Holden is the person receiving Charlie's letters. How do you think he would respond? Choose one letter from the list below and write a letter, as Holden, back to Charlie. You do not have to address everything Charlie mentions in your return letter; however, you should read through and understand what Charlie is saying, then construct your response based on those ideas. Remember, you are writing as Holden. You should really try to get inside Holden's mind and think about how he would respond. Try to use language similar to Holden's, without swearing, and even incorporate some major events from his life if they fit. The letters you can respond to are:

1. The first letter (specifically the first four paragraphs)
2. The letter describing when Charlie walks in on Patrick and Brad (pg. 36-39)
3. The letter detailing the Christmas party and containing the poem Charlie reads for Patrick (pg. 65-73)
4. The letter describing the New Year's Eve party and Charlie's drug use (pg. 94-96)
5. The last letter before the epilogue

If there is a different letter you would like to respond to, feel free to ask me and I will let you know if that is an acceptable choice. Many of these letters contain some sensitive and controversial material. I trust that we can all handle this activity in a mature way. Your response as Holden should deal with the issues presented in Charlie's letters, but needs to be appropriate as well. If you are not sure if what you are writing is acceptable, please bring it up to me, I will read through it, and let you know either way.

You will have 30-35 minutes to write your letter. At the end of class we will take some time to share and discuss what people wrote as a class. Use the space provided to write your response. Remember, there is no right or wrong answer. Think critically about Holden as well as his views and have fun!

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