THE CATCHER IN THE RYE
BY J.D. SALINGER

A book that I had been reading for class is *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, and I thought I could do a book review on it. This realistic fiction novel, published in 1951, and supposedly deemed a classic, was not of my taste.

The plot is pretty simple, revolving around a 16-year old boy named Holden Caulfield, who is recently kicked out of Pencey, a prep school in Pennsylvania. He is apathetic toward his studies and as a result, does not care much when he has to go. After meeting with his former history teacher, Mr. Spencer, and getting criticized for failing, Holden goes to New York. He plans to not go home for a while, and as a result, ends up roaming around the city for a while. During this time, Holden engages in many activities, some of which are considered questionable. Holden experiences loss, pain, depression, and many other hardships by himself, and soon it is a question of how Holden will return back to his normal life.

I really did not enjoy this book. The plot felt a bit too slow-moving, with many of the first chapters still detailing Holden's school life. I also was not interested much in Holden's endeavors in New York, as many of them end up depressing him. This brings me to Holden himself. I found Holden to be insufferable and annoying, and every other page was a reminder of how depressed he is. He also displays the same traits over and over and over, with no new facets to refresh the reader. His blunt style of narrating is refreshing at first but slowly becomes annoying as he criticizes 90% of the things he speaks about. The setting of a big city such as New York, however, was fitting with the plot of the book in my opinion.

All in all, this book wasn't for me, but if you're into slow-paced books and protagonists who aren't always 100% optimistic, *The Catcher in the Rye* is the book for you. There are many other titles from Salinger, but I am not too familiar with any of them. However, if this book interests you, it may do you good to check the others out.