

Name _____



Holden's Guiding Light

Holden Caulfield often felt like he didn't fit in. He struggled with school, disliked most adults, and felt lost in the world. But there was one person who made everything feel a little better—his younger sister, Phoebe.

Phoebe was different from everyone else. She was honest, kind, and smart. Unlike most people Holden met, she never pretended to be something she wasn't. She listened when he talked and cared about what he felt. Even though she was younger than Holden, she often seemed wiser. She saw through his sadness and frustration in ways others couldn't.

Holden's view of the world was shaped by his family, especially his relationships with his siblings. He had an older brother, D.B., who was a writer. Holden used to admire him, but now he felt that D.B. had "sold out" by writing Hollywood movies instead of meaningful stories. He also had a younger brother, Allie, who had passed away when Holden was younger. Allie's death left a deep scar on Holden's heart. He often thought about Allie, remembering how smart and kind he was. Losing Allie made Holden even more protective of childhood innocence.

That's why Holden loved Phoebe so much. She reminded him of the goodness and honesty he believed the world was losing. When Holden was feeling his worst—alone, angry, and ready to leave everything behind—Phoebe was the only person who could reach him. She wasn't afraid to challenge him. When Holden told her he wanted to run away and live alone, she didn't just accept it. Instead, she asked him real questions. Where would he go? What would he do? Did he even like anything?

Her words made Holden stop and think. Maybe running away wasn't the answer. Maybe the world wasn't just full of phonies and disappointments. Maybe, if he looked hard enough, he could find real, good things—just like Phoebe.

By the end of his journey, Holden realized something important. Even though life was confusing and often painful, there were still people worth holding onto. And for him, Phoebe was one of them.