

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-37798-0 - New Essays on *The Catcher in the Rye*

Edited by Jack Salzman

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

First published in 1951, *The Catcher in the Rye* continues to be one of the most popular novels ever written as well as one of the most frequently banned books in the United States. In his introduction to this volume, Jack Salzman discusses the history of the novel's composition and publication, the mixed reception it has received from critics and scholars, the arguments surrounding the attempts at censorship, and its position in a postmodernist literary world. The essays that follow focus on various aspects of the novel: its ideology within the context of the cold war, its portrait of a particular subculture within American society, its account of patterns of adolescent crisis, and its rich and complex narrative structure.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-37798-0 - New Essays on The Catcher in the Rye

Edited by Jack Salzman

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NEW ESSAYS ON
THE CATCHER IN THE RYE

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-37798-0 - New Essays on The Catcher in the Rye

Edited by Jack Salzman

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

★ The American Novel ★

GENERAL EDITOR

Emory Elliott

University of California, Riverside

Other books in the series:

New Essays on The Scarlet Letter

New Essays on The Great Gatsby

New Essays on Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

New Essays on Moby-Dick

New Essays on Uncle Tom's Cabin

New Essays on The Red Badge of Courage

New Essays on The Sun Also Rises

New Essays on The American

New Essays on Light in August

New Essays on Invisible Man

New Essays on The Awakening

New Essays on The Portrait of a Lady

New Essays on Native Son

New Essays on The Grapes of Wrath

New Essays on A Farewell to Arms

New Essays on Winesburg, Ohio

New Essays on Their Eyes Were Watching God

New Essays on The Rise of Silas Lapham

New Essays on Sister Carrie

New Essays on The Crying of Lot 49

New Essays on White Noise

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-37798-0 - New Essays on The Catcher in the Rye

Edited by Jack Salzman

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*New Essays on
The Catcher in the Rye*

*Edited by
Jack Salzman*



**CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS**

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-37798-0 - New Essays on The Catcher in the Rye

Edited by Jack Salzman

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1991

First published 1991

Reprinted 1993

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

New essays on the Catcher in the Rye / edited by Jack Salzman.

p. cm. – (The American novel)

ISBN 0-521-37442-1. – ISBN 0-521-37798-6 (pbk.)

1. Salinger, J.D. (Jerome David), 1919- Catcher in the rye.

I. Salzman, Jack. II. Series.

813'.54-dc20 · 91-29359

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 0-521-37442-1 hardback

ISBN 0-521-37798-6 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 1999

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-37798-0 - New Essays on *The Catcher in the Rye*

Edited by Jack Salzman

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

Series Editor's Preface

page vii

1

Introduction

JACK SALZMAN

page 1

2

Holden in the Museum

JOHN SEELYE

page 23

3

Holden's Museum Pieces: Narrator and Nominal Audience
in *The Catcher in the Rye*

MICHAEL COWAN

page 35

4

Pencey Preppy: Cultural Codes in *The Catcher in the Rye*

CHRISTOPHER BROOKEMAN

page 57

v

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-37798-0 - New Essays on *The Catcher in the Rye*

Edited by Jack Salzman

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

5

Holden Caulfield and American Protest

JOYCE ROWE

page 77

6

Love and Death in *The Catcher in the Rye*

PETER SHAW

page 97

Notes on Contributors

page 115

Selected Bibliography

page 117

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-37798-0 - New Essays on The Catcher in the Rye

Edited by Jack Salzman

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Series Editor's Preface

In literary criticism the last twenty-five years have been particularly fruitful. Since the rise of the New Criticism in the 1950s, which focused attention of critics and readers upon the text itself – apart from history, biography, and society – there has emerged a wide variety of critical methods which have brought to literary works a rich diversity of perspectives: social, historical, political, psychological, economic, ideological, and philosophical. While attention to the text itself, as taught by the New Critics, remains at the core of contemporary interpretation, the widely shared assumption that works of art generate many different kinds of interpretation has opened up possibilities for new readings and new meanings.

Before this critical revolution, many American novels had come to be taken for granted by earlier generations of readers as having an established set of recognized interpretations. There was a sense among many students that the canon was established and that the larger thematic and interpretative issues had been decided. The task of the new reader was to examine the ways in which elements such as structure, style, and imagery contributed to each novel's acknowledged purpose. But recent criticism has brought these old assumptions into question and has thereby generated a wide variety of original, and often quite surprising, interpretations of the classics, as well as of rediscovered novels such as Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, which has only recently entered the canon of works that scholars and critics study and that teachers assign their students.

The aim of The American Novel Series is to provide students of

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-37798-0 - New Essays on The Catcher in the Rye

Edited by Jack Salzman

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Series Editor's Preface

American literature and culture with introductory critical guides to American novels now widely read and studied. Each volume is devoted to a single novel and begins with an introduction by the volume editor, a distinguished authority on the text. The introduction presents details of the novel's composition, publication, history, and contemporary reception, as well as a survey of the major critical trends and readings from first publication to the present. This overview is followed by four or five original essays, specifically commissioned from senior scholars of established reputation and from outstanding younger critics. Each essay presents a distinct point of view, and together they constitute a forum of interpretative methods and of the best contemporary ideas on each text.

It is our hope that these volumes will convey the vitality of current critical work in American literature, generate new insights and excitement for students of the American novel, and inspire new respect for and new perspectives upon these major literary texts.

Emory Elliott
University of California, Riverside