

KEY - CHAPTER 17**1. DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS OR PHRASES FROM CHAPTER 17:**

Dopey: silly or stupid.

Get away with (smth): to escape blame or punishment when you do something wrong, or to avoid harm or criticism for something you did.

Bunk: complete nonsense or something that is not true.

Horse around: complete nonsense or something that is not true.

Clinch: the position two people are in when they are holding each other tightly in their arms, when fighting or showing love.

Corny: (especially of jokes, films, stories, etc.) showing no new ideas or too often repeated, and therefore not funny or interesting.

Witty: using words in a clever and funny way.

Butler: the most important male servant in a house, usually responsible for organizing the other servants.

Shove off: used to tell someone angrily to go away.

Smoke one's ears off: smoke very heavily.

Get yellow: to get scared.

Blasé: bored or not excited, or wishing to seem so.

Rave: to speak in an uncontrolled way, usually because you are upset or angry, or because you are ill.

Rubber: to rubberneck, to stare with curiosity, as by twisting the neck or turning the head.

Flannel: a light cloth usually made from wool, used especially for making clothes.

Buddyroos: close friends or pals.

Slobber: to allow saliva or food to run out of the mouth

Hesitate: to pause before you do or say something, often because you are uncertain or nervous about it.

Lulu: something that is extremely good or extremely bad.

Trim: to decorate something by adding objects, pieces of material, etc. that make it look attractive.

Fed up: bored, annoyed, or disappointed, especially by something that you have experienced for too long

Cliques: small groups of people who spend their time together and do not welcome other people into that group

Run out: to finish, use, or sell all of something, so that there is none left

Brook: a small natural stream of fresh water.

Sore: angry because you feel you have been unfairly treated.

Oodles: a very large amount of something pleasant

Newsreels: (pl) a short film that consists of news reports, usually one that was made in the past for showing in a cinema.

Almighty: (of God) having the power to do everything

Hit the ceiling: (or hit the roof) to become extremely angry

2. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHAPTER:

1. Why is Holden depressed when he is sitting in the lobby of the Biltmore?

Holden says it is depressing when he keeps wondering about what will become of all the girls when they finish school.

2. Name two outstanding characteristics of Harris Macklin.

He was very intelligent and was a good whistler.

3. What is the best thing Holden can say about bores?

They do not hurt anyone—most of them. In addition, they might have a special talent like being able to whistle well.

4. After Sally tells Holden that she loves him, how does she want to change him?

Sally wants Holden to let his hair grow.

5. Holden says that the Lunts do not act like people or actors. What does he say they act like?

Holden says that the Lunts act like they know they are -celebrities, i.e., they are too good as actors.

6. Why does Sally not talk much during the intermission?

Sally does not talk much, according to Holden, because she is busy looking around and being charming.

7. What article of clothing does Holden associate with "Ivy League types?"

Holden associates checkered vests with "Ivy League types."

8. Why does Holden think that Sally really wants to go skating?

Holden thinks that Sally wants to go skating so she can wear one of those little skating skirts.

9. How do Holden and Sally's skating ability compare with the others who are on the ice?

Holden says that Sally and he are the worst skaters on the ice.

10. Does Sally like school?

Sally says that school is a terrific bore.

3. EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE CHAPTER:

They take a break and sit down indoors, Holden begins to unravel. Oscillating between shouting and hushed tones, he rants about all the "phonies" at his prep schools and in New York society, and talks about how alienated he feels. He becomes even more crazy and impetuous, saying that he and Sally should run away together and escape from society, living on their own in a cabin. When she points out that his dreams are ridiculous, he becomes more and more agitated. The quarrel builds until Holden calls Sally a "royal pain in the ass," and she begins to cry. Holden starts to apologize, but Sally is upset and angry with him, and, finally, he leaves without her.

SUMMARY

Holden has time to spare before Sally arrives, especially since she's always late. As he waits, he looks at the many attractive women who pass him by, and though this entertains him, he can't help but think about how they'll probably all grow up to marry boring men. He then ruminates on what it means to be boring, concluding that some boring people aren't so bad, since most people have hidden talents that might redeem them. When Sally finally arrives, Holden can't stay mad at her for being late because she looks so good. However, he gets annoyed at the sound of her voice and the "phony" words she chooses. Nonetheless, though, he focuses on how attractive she is, feeling glad that he decided to call her.

On the cab ride to the theater, Holden convinces Sally to "horse around" with him, though she doesn't want to at first because—according to Holden—she doesn't want to mess up her lipstick. After they kiss for a while, Holden suddenly decides that he wants to marry her, and he blurts out that he loves her. "Oh, darling, I love you too," Sally responds before telling him that he should let his hair grow out. This annoys Holden, but he doesn't say anything.

Holden doesn't find the play as bad as he expected it to be, but he still thinks it's "on the crappy side." The actors' performances seem phony and conceited to him, but Sally loves it. During the first intermission, she runs into a boy she once met at another school, and they spend the entirety of the intermission talking about the play. The way they converse disgusts Holden, especially when the boy refers to the actors as "angels," but there's nothing he can do to stop them from talking. To his horror, he also has to endure their "phony" conversation during the second intermission. By the time Holden and Sally finally leave the boy behind after the play, Holden feels as if he hates Sally, though he agrees to go ice-skating at Radio City when she enthusiastically proposes the idea.

Holden suspects that Sally only wants to go skating because the rink gives girls a small dress to wear. And though it annoys him that Sally purposefully walks in front of him so he can see how her behind looks in this dress, he can't deny that she looks good in it. When they finally get on the ice, it becomes clear that they're both terrible skaters, so they soon retire to a small bar-restaurant near the rink, where Holden tries to order a scotch and soda but ends up having to order Coke. As they sit there, Sally asks if he's going to come over on Christmas Eve to help her trim the tree—an invitation she extended in a letter to which he claims to have responded. Irritated, Holden tells her that he's going to come.

On edge because of the play and because of Sally's question about Christmas Eve, Holden suddenly leans forward and asks if she ever gets fed up with stuff like school. She admits that she's often bored in class, but he presses on, saying that this isn't what he means. He says he hates school and everything else: taxis, New York, phony guys like the one they met at the play, having to take elevators, going to the tailor—as he goes on, Sally interrupts him and asks him not to shout, which he finds funny because he isn't raising his voice. Still, he goes on, saying that he never wants to become the kind of person who cares about his car. He also says that he's only in New York because of Sally and would otherwise be off in a cabin in the woods.

Holden tells Sally that she should try going to a boys' school sometime, since boys' schools are "full of phonies." The only point of these schools, he argues, is to someday lead the kind of life that might allow you to buy a Cadillac. He also laments the ways in which other students group together according to various categories, pointing out that all the Catholics and athletes and academics always flock to one another. Seizing on the idea of leaving New York, he suggests that he and Sally should run away to New England and live in a cabin together. They could get married, he says, and he could find a job and chop wood to stay warm in the winter. "You can't just do something like that," Sally says, annoyed by his enthusiasm. She then asks him to stop yelling, even though he insists that he's being quiet.