

# The Catcher in the Rye

Reading Check  
Chapters 23-26

1. Just before he leaves her room, Phoebe gives Holden...

**Her Christmas money**

2. Holden leaves Mr. Antolini's apartment because...

**He thinks Mr. Antolini made a pass at him**

3. As he prepares to leave New York City, Holden repeatedly encounters the same words. What kind of words are they?

**Vulgarity scrawled on walls**

4. Holden's final words in the story are...

**—"Don't tell anybody anything. If you do, you start missing everybody"—**

**suggests that he is still shackled by the same problems he has dealt with throughout the book. He still seems scared and alone, and he continues to dread communication. On the other hand, his final words suggest that he has begun to shed the impenetrable skin of cynicism that he had grown around himself. He has begun to value, rather than dismiss, the people around him. His nostalgia—"missing everybody"—reveals that he is not as bitter and repressed as he was earlier in the book.**