

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*The Catcher in the Rye*  
Activity #14: Symbols  
Use During/After Reading

**Directions:** A symbol is something that stands for something else. For example, the dove is a symbol of peace. Titles, repeated phrases or repeated references to particular objects in a story are often clues to symbols. Symbols are used to emphasize the theme or message of a story.

Throughout *The Catcher in the Rye* there are repeated references to the red cap, to the Robert Burns poem, to the ducks, to the museum, and to "phonies." You can tell that the catcher's mitt and the carrousel also have special significance for Holden; he chooses to write about the former, and he ends his story with the latter.

1. List as many references to each of these as you can find.

Reference	Page Numbers
red cap	
title poem	
ducks	
museum	
phonies	
baseball mitt	
carrousel	

2. How are the red cap and the baseball mitt alike? How are they different?
3. Choose two of the "phonies." How are they alike? How are they different?
4. How is Allie like the boy singing "The Catcher in the Rye"? How are they different?
5. How are the museum mummies like the carrousel animals and the ducks? How are they different?

**Choose one of the pairs in 2-5 and make a Venn Diagram for comparison.**