



## Teacher's Notes

*The Catcher In The Rye* is a book that often appeals to students due to the nature of its content. Most teenagers can identify to some extent with the confusion and lack of understanding Holden Caulfield experiences as he tries to enter the adult world. Although some of the language and references may seem a bit dated now, it is still a book that is extremely relevant today and this gives lots of scope for approaches to teaching it.

This teaching pack is designed to support your teaching of *The Catcher In The Rye* and has been carefully designed to match the AQA A specification. Students will be assessed by examination according to the following two assessment objectives:

*AO1: Demonstrates ability to respond to texts critically, sensitively and in detail, selecting appropriate ways to convey their response, using textual evidence as appropriate;*

*AO2: Demonstrates ability to explore how language, structure and forms contribute to the meanings of texts, considering different approaches to texts and alternative interpretations;*

The exam will be tiered for two levels but the assessment criteria remain the same for each. Activities given in this pack can be used up to the higher tier, as you can choose to omit or extend work as appropriate. The resource is differentiated to support all abilities. Some activities focus mainly on plot, while others aim to foster a deeper understanding of character, themes and narrative style. Tasks can be further differentiated by the amount of time and support given to students. Used wisely, the resource will cater for both tiers of the English exam, but the decisions on how you use the material it contains, must of course be down to you.

The resource has a number of features that will enable you to introduce and develop the text, and prepare students for their exam. The first section consists of notes and discussion points. The notes cover the author, some general background information and chapter-by-chapter plot summaries. These can be the basis for reading, discussion and research. The discussion points can be used in class to spark debate, or adapted to be essay questions or homework tasks. Some of your more able students may benefit from using them to accompany their reading of the text. Alternatively, use them to form the basis of individual writing tasks, or group and class discussions. Students could also come up with their own list of discussion points for each chapter.

The second section is comprised of worksheets and exercises. The creative writing and speaking and listening tasks can be adapted to suit the needs of your class and will stimulate in-depth responses to the novel. The worksheets provide quick starter activities, while stimulating further understanding of the novel. These make ideal homework tasks or short in-class activities.