Salinger's depiction of Holden Caulfield is considered one of the most convincing portrayals of an adolescent in literature. Intelligent, sensitive, and imaginative, Holden desires acceptance into the adult world even though he is sickened and obsessed by what he regards as its 'phonies,' including his teachers, parents, and his older brother. For all his surface toughness, Holden is painfully idealistic and longs for a moral purpose in life. He tells Phoebe that he wants to be "the catcher in the rye"-the defender of childhood innocence-who would stand in a field of rye where thousands of children would play. The hero-narrator of The Catcher in the Rye is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comme The hero-narrator of The Catcher in the Rye is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. For Salinger to be able to infuse that kind of nuance into the sparse prose of
Caulfield's narrative was nothing short of brilliant in my opinion. Caulfield is lazy. He is stubborn.