I bet she still keeps all her kings in the back row

Trapped on the other side of yesterday.

It’s a terrifically cold afternoon,

It always is when we look back upon the expanse of years

of our silence, of the cliff

no sun out or anything.

I hope she wants to disappear today when we cross the road.

Maybe this time we’ll know what we’re running from.

Maybe we’ll just sit in a café after all these years

Maybe we’ll try to feel some kind of goodbye.

I know that we’re adults now

Married with kids of our own and all

But I’ll be half in love with her by the time we sit down.

Time is like that. It’s that feeling of riding some terrible,

Terrible fall all over again for the first time.

I know that song, “If a body catch a body comin’ through the rye.”

Maybe she’ll catch me this time

Catch me in her wide open arms right at the ledge.

I know that the words are all wrong and mixed up

But there’s a “Fuck You” on the wall of my life

And this time I’ll see you through the tears and kiss your mouth.

Will you catch me already?

I swear to god it’s a goddam stupid question.

☺ Questions for “Holden On” by Kurt K. Shinian

1. In the space provided below, analyze and interpret the double entendre of the title of the poem

2. Who is the narrator of the poem?

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3. The narrator in the poem is alluding to

a). Phoebe c). Stadlater

b). Jane Gallagher d). Allie

4. In the space provided below, explain the symbolic significance of the line “no sun out or anything.”

5. Referring directly to the novel, *The Catcher in the Rye,* explain the following line within the context of the poem and within the context of the novel: “But there’s a ‘Fuck You’ on the wall of my life.” How does this line play out in the novel and in the poem?

6. The tone of the poem can best be described as (use a dictionary if you don’t know a word)

a). nostalgic c). regretful

b). hostile d). annoyed

7. There is a caesura (a pause [period] in the middle of the line) in the third stanza - “Time is like that.” Regarding *The Catcher in the Rye*, explain how this syntactical feature (the period in the middle of the line) reinforces the principle themes of the novel.