

## Popular Interpretations of J.D. Salinger's "A Perfect Day for Bananafish"

- **Sick Man:** Seymour is deranged and has become a pedophile. The beginning of the story merely sets up the fact that he is insane. While spending time with Sybil, he reaches the realization that what he is doing is wrong, so he kills himself.
- **Stressed Out:** After the war, Seymour has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The beginning of the story shows this along with how his wife does not care about him. He cannot relate to anyone aside from children, such as Sybil. The bananafish represents Seymour, and the 'bananas' represent stressful things in his life, which will eventually kill him – explaining his suicide.
- **Materialism:** Similar to the previous theory, after the war, Seymour has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The beginning of the story shows that Muriel is vain and materialistic. He spends time with Sybil because she is innocent and not materialistic. The bananafish represents society, and the 'bananas' represent material things, which destroy everyone. He kills himself to escape the material world.