*The Catcher in the Rye*

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AP Literature, AP Language

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Salinger’s style and the narrator’s perspective provide a novel rife with description and vivid sensory imagery. Find instances where dialogue and imagery help create a realistic scene.

The mood in *The Catcher In The Rye* is often colored by the mood of Holden Caulfield. Cite passages which illustrate this connection between our narrator and the mood of the novel.

Salinger fills the novel with instances of disdain for authority, rules, and social convention as well as aggression and violence. Cite passages which illustrate this type of belief or behavior.

Salinger creates characters who find amusement in lying and deceptiveness, characters who lie, cheat, and bully to get what they want, and nameless people who seem to take perverse pleasure in things like filling public walls with profane graffiti. Cite passages that illustrate this type of characterization.

Holden feels misunderstood by and unimportant to many of the adults in his life. He shares stories where this concept is illustrated through the events of other characters’ lives. Cite passages that illustrate a disregard for the feelings and well-being of others.

Holden Caulfield might be criticized for his impulsiveness, his inability to plan ahead, his irresponsibility and his inability to commit to school, work, or routine activities. Cite passages that illustrate these characteristics in our narrator.

Cite passages that speak to or explain Holden’s perception of childhood and his desire to protect innocence or children.

Holden Caulfield is a solitary rebel who is alienated because he cannot conform. Cite passages illustrating this alienation or that hint at alienation as a form of self protection.

Throughout the novel, Holden perceives his loneliness and isolation and wants to break the confines of his seclusion by making some form of human connection. Cite passages that illustrate this isolation, the need for human companionship and communication, and Holden’s interactions with other people.

Growing up is often intolerable in a society that does not provide stability and values to the youth on the verge of adulthood. Cite passages that illustrate the painfulness of growing up and reluctance to become an adult.

In *The Catcher In The Rye*, Holden Caulfield is totally disgusted at the phonies that people the world. Salinger paints a clear picture of the phoniness and hypocrisy of the adult world. Cite passages that illustrate this phoniness, Holden’s frustration or the difference between the authentic and the artificial.

The idea of death and the effect of dealing with death is prevalent in *The Catcher In The Rye*. Cite passages that discuss death and how people left behind deal with the loss of a loved one.

Some view *The Catcher in the Rye* as a coming-of-age novel – a work in which a character deals with adult issues and moves toward deeper understanding of life such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Cite passages that illustrate this type of struggle, growth or change in Holden.

Salinger uses the novel to comment on a society that sacrifices its values system for the sake of monetary gain. Cite passages that speak to this idea.