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| JD Salinger's book, *The Catcher in the Rye*, is written as a journal detailing 17 year-old Holden’s transition away from childhood. However, as the story progresses, it becomes evident that Holden doesn’t want to grow up. Salinger explores the realities of innocence, isolation, identity, and adulthood through the eyes of a depressed teenager, who often turns to splitting, denial, and overall simplicity towards the real world to rationalize his own perspective. Salinger forges Holden’s childish outlook with generalizations and simplistic diction. |  CITR.jpgBorrowed from *Huffingtonpost.com* |
| FAKE HOE.pngBorrowed from *thefreedictionary.com* | GeneralizationsOne way Salinger reveals Holden desperation to cling onto childhood is through the absolute nature of Holden’s black and white perceptions. Salinger is striving to evoke sympathy and frustration in the reader. For example, Holden often generalizes all adults, and adulthood in general, as phony. However, ironically, Holden says he’s “the most terrific liar you ever saw”. Since Holden only perceived the world in black and white, it’s also apparent that Holden generalizes children as pure and innocent, something he’s trying to hold onto. The reader becomes sympathetic with Holden as it is more evident that he’s a child working through trauma, but Holden’s firm grasp on such beliefs is intended to frustrate the reader as well.  |
| Simplistic DictionThe narrator of the story, Holden, is a teenager, so Salinger writes with a basic academic diction to create a realistic character. Additionally, the simplistic diction, along with the second person perspective, causes the reader to feel bonded with Holden, another thing Holden craves because of his brother, Allie’s, death. Holden, as many teenagers do, curses and uses words such as “like” very often. Holden also repeats “phony” and “crazy” throughout the novel. Salinger takes advantage of diction to add reality, but also layers to Holden’s character. It’s to demonstrate Holden’s immaturity, especially with the cursing, and Holden’s unwillingness to grow and move past his brother’s death.  | fuck.pngBorrowed from *pixabay.com* |