

## Candidate 3 evidence

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	Essay-Prose Fiction	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
5)	<p>'Depressed as hell' and walking the fine line between sane and insane, the scathingly analytical Holden Caulfield desperately avoids change and tries to preserve innocence in the bildungsroman novel, 'The Catcher in the Rye'. Through the use of effective techniques such as symbolism, J.D Salinger has created a complex character who does not always fit in with his society or surroundings.</p>	
	<p>From the beginning of the novel it is clear to see that Holden Caulfield is an extremely isolated character, by chance and also by choice.</p> <p>"practically the whole school except me was there"</p>	
	<p>When Holden says this he is standing 'on the top of Thompson hill' and looking down on the rest of his peers while they watch a football game. He has recently been kicked out of Percy Prep and is on his way to visit</p>	

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his teacher, Mr Spencer, one of the only positive relationships in Holden's life, it is obvious that Holden chooses to keep people at an arm's length as he has a carefully constructed view of reality and outside influence threatens to break this down and leave Holden vulnerable to a society that he only holds contempt for.

After running away from Mr Spencer Holden decides to go home to New York, a place he dislikes.

"Where did the ducks go?"

Holden is in a cab wondering about the ducks he sees in central park, the ducks are a symbol of Holden's obsession with childhood and innocence and he wonders how they survive such drastic changes in their environment so that he might do the same. "you know those ducks in that lagoon" said to the cabbie, similar to how a child blurt out anything that comes to mind to

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	<p>their parents, the cabbie thinks he is joking and once again Holden is <del>left</del> left feeling out of touch with his surroundings and misunderstood by society.</p>	
	<p>As Holden is braving New York alone, he has one constant companion, his red hunting hat.</p>	
	<p>"For chrissake, he said, that's a deer shooting hat"</p>	
	<p>This is said by Holden's friend Achley when talking about arguably the most famous symbol in the book, Holden's hat. It is clear that Holden's hat is a way for him to hide and protect himself from society. He replies to Achley, "no its a people shooting hat", obviously Holden will not shoot people in his hat but metaphorically he does in his own way, when Holden is in a cynical frame of mind he spends all of his energy denigrating those around him a large part of his</p>	

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fantasy is that children are simple and innocent while adults are corrupt and superficial and his only aspiration is to preserve this innocence, explaining why he feels so at odds with society.

One of Holden's only positive memories of New York is the museum he visited as a young boy

"The best thing though, in the museum, was that everything stayed right where it was"

Holden has gone to museum in an effort to ground himself as his mental state declines further, the reason Holden is so attached to the museum is because it presents a way of life Holden can understand, it is frozen, silent and unchanging, and as Holden has a problem with change this is a large part of his fantasy world. It troubles him that everytime he visits the museum he

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has changed while it has remained the same. He enjoys visiting the eskimo because he can judge it with the separation of the glass between them while the eskimo cannot judge him, a large reason why Holden scorns convention and society as he feels judged by it.

At the end of the novel Holden has declined greatly and is now entertaining fantasies of running away, to the alarm of his younger sister, Phoebe. "It was just that she looked so damn nice the way she kept going around and around"

Holden and his sister are in central park and Holden has managed to convince his sister to ride the carousel, while she is riding it starts to rain, sending everyone but Holden running for cover, once again Holden has reacted to his surroundings differently than

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	<p>Others as ironically the rain that has sent everyone else running for cover has triggered Holden "I felt so damn happy" one of the only times in the book Holden has said to be anything other than depressed, it could be said that he has had an epiphany about his plans to be the protector of innocence and how unrealistic they are and that he is finally allowing himself to live in reality and let his carefully constructed fantasy break down.</p>	
	<p>To conclude this essay it is clear that Holden Caulfield is an outsider to society and his surroundings and that reality is just too much for his fragile mental state to handle, although towards the end of the novel we see reality creeping in, it is unclear whether or not Holden will ever fit in with the ideals of society which we can appreciate</p>	

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	As many people feel as if they don't	
	fit in with their surroundings.	