

## Candidate 3 evidence

	Prose Fiction	
5.	'The Catcher in the Rye' is a novel by J.D. Salinger in which the main character Holden Caulfield can be seen as very flawed. The novel is a first person narrative of Holdens life following the death of his younger brother Allie. We join Holden on his final day at Pencey Prep school after his expulsion, he then embarks on a physical, emotional and spiritual journey to New York City where he reaches his breaking point. Through his protagonist, Salinger explores Holdens flaws through the isolation he experiences in this corrupt society. We are also made to consider the central concerns of Holdens <del>personal</del> difficulties	

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with change and moving on.	
The nature of Halden's flaws	
are explored by a number of	
techniques such as characterisation	
symbolism and key incident.	
Characterisation is used by	
Salinger to explain why Halden's	
isolation makes him so flawed.	
In chapter 7, there is a football	
game commencing at Percy Prep	
during Halden's final day. "practically	
the whole school except me was	
there. Halden says his wife	
standing 'way the hell up on	
top of Thomson Mill', watching	
his classmates enjoy themselves.	
The word choice of 'whole' suggests	
everyone coming together and feeling	
a sense of community while Halden	
'doesn't choose to take part and	
be in this community. His physical	
isolation becomes evident as we	
can see he does not attend	



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	<p>'bastards' suggests that he does not respect the people in this society that has wronged <del>me</del> him. This flaw he has can be seen as a result of none of the Percy boys ever comforting Holden when he was struggling so instead he finds comfort in his own company which pushes him to be more isolated. The characterisation of Holden here contributes to our appreciation that he is a very troubled teenager. His physical isolation from society is made apparent and his flaws and disrespectful nature are also made clear. Ever since the death of his brother, <del>Holden</del> (an event in Holden's life that has not prevented him from forming strong connections with others) we can see how Holden struggles to communicate socially.</p>	

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	<p>Symbolism is also used by Salinger to add to our appreciation of why Holden faces this isolation and why he can be seen as flawed. When Holden arrives in New York City he strikes up a conversation with a cab driver. "do you happen to know where they go, the ducks, when it gets all frozen over". Holders concern for the ducks can be seen as a very notable symbol in the novel. This symbolises his fear of change which we learn affects him in many ways. This fear links back to the death of Allie where his life was <del>changed</del> changed forever and he had no control over it. Holden also talks about the lagoon becoming 'frozen over', this symbolises how Holden wishes time could stay frozen, allowing him to stay a child forever and avoid the progression</p>	



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Scared Holden is of normal things in Society

~~Max~~ Salinger's use of key incidents ~~really~~ really makes Holdens flaws more apparent.

An interaction Holden has with a prostitute at the Edmund Hotel ~~is~~ gives us an insight to why Holden is so isolated

A prostitute is sent to his room and during their interaction he says "Don't you feel like talking for a while?". Unlike ~~what~~ a usual situation where he would pay to have sex with her, Holden sees this as an opportunity for a real conversation, even offering to pay her to talk to him. This may have been Holden's subconscious way of preventing anything sexual from happening between the two as a protection of innocence. Holden is obsessed

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<p>by people being innocent and pure which can be seen through his rejection of the rest of people in this corrupt society. His isolation is made clear as we see what Holden does in the situation compared to what other men do. He doesn't fit in or relate to his peers. Everyone around him is progressing into adulthood while he remains innocent and child-like. Holden's encounter with Mr. Antolini can also be seen as a key incident. "I mean I wondered if just maybe I was wrong about thinking he made a flirty pass at me". Here Holden admits that his judge of character <sup>and situations</sup> is not always perhaps accurate. He views events differently to other people which might be the cause of his flaws. This incident is</p>	



