

DUE: Wednesday, 3/16, by 8:00am on turnitin.com & hard copy in class

YOUR TASK

Compose a well-developed and thoughtful essay in response to **ONE** of the below essay topics about *The Catcher in the Rye*.

Choice 1:

Two of the most prominent (important) motifs in *The Catcher in the Rye* are innocence and purity. Identify and analyze a strong **theme** present in the novel that centers around one or both of these motifs.

In your essay:

1. Identify a major theme relating to innocence and/or purity.
2. Discuss two moments/situations that illustrate Holden’s perspective on innocence/purity.
3. Analyze and explain how Holden’s view of innocence/purity and his subsequent actions contribute to the overall message of the novel (theme).



Choice 2:

Salinger uses a variety of symbols in *The Catcher in the Rye* to help develop and support major themes. Select and analyze **two symbols** that stand out to you as being especially significant and successful in the development of a major **theme**.

In your essay:

1. Identify the two symbols and the major theme(s) the symbols relate to.
2. Explain how Salinger develops these objects as symbols throughout the story.
3. Discuss the meaning and significance of the symbols.
4. Explore the symbols’ contribution to (how they help to develop and support) the overall message of the novel (theme).



Choice 3:

Very often a secondary character (minor character) may have a small part, but he or she actually has a big role in the novel. Perhaps the character heavily influences the protagonist. Maybe the protagonist learns an important lesson from the character. Possibly, the minor character has a significant impact on the plot/storyline or creates a turning point. Choose a secondary character and explain why he or she is a necessary part of the book and how his or her character helps develop a major **theme**.

In your essay:

1. Identify a secondary character and the major theme the character is connected with.
2. Discuss two moments/situations that illustrate the character’s significance in the story.
3. Explore the character’s contribution to (how he/she helps to develop and support) the overall message of the novel (theme).

REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ Your essay should include:
 - An introduction with a thesis statement that clearly states the point you are trying to make.
 - ONE body paragraph that relates to and proves your thesis statement.
Follow chunk format. (That means you should have **TWO** concrete details from the story with appropriate commentary and citations.)
 - A conclusion that ties all of your ideas together.
- ❖ You must use the essay organizer to compose a rough draft and the self-edit checklist.
- ❖ Type your final draft in size 12 Times New Roman font.
- ❖ Double space your work.

Use your notes and the book to help you!

BRAINSTORMING SPACE:

Essay Organizer – Rough Draft

Introduction

Hook: _____

Background Info: _____

Thesis: _____

Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence: _____

Transition: _____

Concrete Detail: _____

Commentary: _____

Conclusion

Restate Thesis: _____

Summarize Major Points: _____

Who Cares?: _____

Name _____

Eng. Foundations III – Silver

Date _____

Essay Writing Editing Checklist

Layout Check:

- Paragraphs are indented
- Work is typed in size 12 Times New Roman font
- Work is double-spaced

Grammar/Punctuation Check:

- There are no run-on sentences or capitalization errors
- Each quote is surrounded by quotation marks (ex. He said, "quote")
- Transitions introduce each quote with a colon (:)
- There are no contractions (ex. *can't* should be *cannot*, *it's* should be *it is*, etc.)
- All commonly confused words are used correctly (there/their/they're, than/then, etc.)

Format/Substance Check:

- Introduction has a **hook**, **background information**, and a strong **thesis**
- Introduction mentions the title of the text (italicized or underlined) and author
- You do not use the word "I".
- You are using the present tense (Ex. "She walks to the store" instead of "She walked to the store.")
- Body paragraphs follow chunk format with **2** quotes per paragraph
- Transitional sentences provide an adequate amount of context (speaker of quote, current situation, etc.)
- There are no floating quotes
- Concrete details relate to what you are trying to prove
- Concrete details have properly formatted citations
- Commentary fully explains the meaning and significance of the concrete details
- Commentary connects the concrete detail to the point you are proving
- Information flows seamlessly from point to point

Total score: ____ / 20