

Conflict



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Conflict can be triggered through internal or external tensions. It can be embedded within us subconsciously, stemming from negative personal experiences, or through the influence of other people's actions. These influences on conflict are demonstrated throughout the poems "Children" by Nancy Keesing, "Aboriginal Australia" by Jack Davies and throughout my chosen text "The Catcher in the Rye", written by JD Salinger. In Nancy Keesing's poem "Children", visual and tactile images of internal and external conflict are portrayed through her use of poetic techniques. The poem depicts the emotional connection between a mother and her children, in contrast to the power imbalance experienced by children living in a war-torn country. "Whirling gasping tossed disjointed, I watching, fear they may be broken." This, like in the first stanza, represents a mother's maternal instinct for the safety of her children playing in the unpredictable ocean.

The use of first person, and the dynamic active past and present tense verbs provides the responder with the internal emotions of a mother's concern, and the physical, but harmless conflict her children are experiencing. "Caught at random, tossed, exploded. Torn, disjointed, like sticks broken." The repetition of "tossed" and "disjointed" in the second stanza represent a juxtaposing image of another world, where the conflict embedded is physical and life destroying. This is shown in my visual representation image 1 by the obscure and distorted body. The words "torn" and "exploded" draw genuine empathy from the responder, to the power imbalance and physical harm children are experiencing elsewhere.

There is a physical power imbalance experienced by both the children in the ocean, and the vulnerability to physical harm delivered by physical conflict. The idea of power imbalance and internal conflict stemming from the actions of others is explored in Jack Davis's poem 'Aboriginal Australia'. 'Aboriginal Australia' demonstrates the heartache and pain experienced by Indigenous Australians, as a result of power imbalance and discrimination inflicted by the white invaders. Robbed of their land, separated from their families and robbed of their own identities, Aboriginal people were left with nothing. 'You once smiled a friendly smile, said we were kin to one another. Thus with guile, for a short while, became to me a brother.' In my visual representation, image 2 the native Australian is struggling for chance of a happy non-conflicted life.

The white Australian is shown to be above the native Australian, which symbolises power and dominance. The opening stanza in Davis's poem represents temporary friendship and overall deceit, as White men invaded the lives of native Australians and caused them immense conflict with in themselves for generations to come. The effect of rhyming 'smile, while and guile' symbolises the idea of temporary friendship not last long, resulting with misery, betrayal and broken homes.

'Now you primly say you're justified, and sing of a nation's glory. But I think of the people crucified – the Real Australian story.' The use of first person emphasizes that the person telling this story is speaking on behalf of all those who have experienced this inhumane act caused by white men. The emphasis of 'the real Australian story' symbolises the forgotten past and the ongoing internal conflict Aboriginal people continue to

experience. The catcher in the Rye, written by JD salinger, explores the internal conflict of Holden Caulfield and his transition from adolescence to adulthood. Written in first person, this stream of consciousness novel tells the tale of a teenage boy being disconnected and different to mainstream society.

JD Salinger has portrayed Holden's hardships through his colloquial speech from 1950's conservative America. "goddam" and "sonuvabitch" are said frequently throughout Holden's journey, expressing his inner frustration and feelings of depression impacted by mainstream society as he struggles to fit in and find acceptance. Holden's conflict is expressed through his perception on growing up, as he views adults as "phonies" and has altered ideologies and values in comparison. The challenges he endures on his journey to self-discovery are experienced through his negative approach to adapting to life's changes and losing his childhood innocence.

The carousel in the novel is symbolic in the sense that it represents a continuous journey through life's stages. The carousel much like life's experiences do not stop. "If they fall off, they fall off. But it's bad if you say anything." This line represents a sudden realisation for Holden, as he discovers that "falling off" is a natural part of growing up. The change is inevitable. The internal and subconscious conflict that lies within Holden Caulfield is revealed during the final stage of the novel, where he retells his tale after being admitted for severe depression. In image 3 of my visual representation you can see a young man in deep thought with two dogs behind him, very close to being on his back.

The 'black dog' is commonly thought of when thinking of depression. The deep thought shown in the eyes of the young man exposes sadness and sorrow and confusion. The black background helps portray that image. Conflict is inevitable, whether it is influenced through relationships, personal experiences, or through self-discovery.

Conflict can be triggered through external measures and misunderstanding, and if unresolved, can be prolonged in nature. My understanding of the elements and influences of conflict have been enhanced through the poems Aboriginal Australia, Children and my supplementary material Catcher in the Rye. My visual representation denotes my further understanding of this topic, conflict through the different art works I have chosen. Brett Whitely painted the images I chose to use when he was in a time of personal conflict. The inner conflict shown in Mr Whitley's paintings is a helpful tool to assist me in understanding the topic for this speech. Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" shows the deep frustration and anger that can come from conflict. The image is painted using cubism, which helps portray the image of conflict with jagged edges and also by using the colours blue grey and black.