

Catcher in the rye essay with freud comparisons essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

I think Holden Caulfield is one of the few sane characters in *The Catcher in the Rye*. List reasons why you think Holden is sane, or normal compared to the average teenager.

I think Holden is sane because he is like most other teens. They deal with emotions, mood swings, relationships with others, etc. List some other characters and show how they are stranger than Holden. Mr. Antolini- Holden awoke to him patting/petting his head, then asking Holden not to leave afterward. P.

192-193 Examine Holden's interaction with society, including family, friends, teachers, etc. Phoebe- Holden's little sister, he loves her most of the family, and she is one of the reasons that stops him from thinking about suicide, he thinks if he died she would feel pain and he doesn't want her to be in pain DB- Holden's brother, lives in Hollywood, nice car, writer, Holden thinks he is consumed by the Hollywood genre ??? Holden's little brother, Holden mourns for him, died of leukemia Stradlater- Holden's roommate at Pencey Prep, they get in many fights, asshole Sunny- prostitute, Holden asks for one because he is depressed, then wusses out and asks her to leave Dick Slagle- Holden's 1st roommate, Holden thought he had awful suitcases, so Holden judged Dick by this Compare Holden to Freud and then use at least two of Freud's theories of personality to describe or compare and contrast Holden's views. Holden and Freud were both hermits, they both dropped out of society. Freud thinks happiness is the meaning of life, even though he questions what happiness really is. Like Holden he questions many things he says. Holden and Freud have opposite views on sex, (What are their opposite views?) Freud thinks it

is every young boys dream to murder their fathers and get married with their mothers.

Holden is insecure with it. The parents do not play a large part in this book. What are the " root causes" of his desire to withdraw from society? (Holden wants to be a catcher in the rye, He wants to save children from falling from a cliff . Children meaning innocence and falling down to society and losing their innocence) Elaborate Holden wants happiness. One view on his happiness is to move away to Vermont in a cottage with Jane.

He wants to live alone with her with no one else around. (withdrawing from society) Dealing with emotions- On pg. 44-45 holden gets into a brawl with his roommate stradlater. He deals with this by leaving pency prep three days earlier to get away from stradlater.

(fight happened because stradlater went on a date with holdens dream girl and stradlater didn't fill in holden with the details)Mood Swings- Holden has mood swings very often. Like on page 96 holden hires a prostitute, but when she arrives he doesn't feel like having her around in his hotel room.

Relationships- Authority- Fitting in- I believe holden wants to withdraw form society on the account that he had a rough childhood and never fit in. now that he thinks he cant fit in he wants to never fit in. he now wants to have nothing to do with anyone else besides jane.

Shows routine behaviors- Holden has some behaviors that he repeats throughout the entire book. Nearly everyone in the novel annoy or bug holden, there is always something wrong with them he takes a disliking to.

On pg 8 Holdens teacher mr spencer starts picking his nose, holden is absolutely disgusted. Holden have very many routine sayings.

He says " PHONY" to describe most people in the novel. Holden is an obsessive liar, he lies about many things about himself. He will lie about simple questions like whats your name, how old are you, where are you from. Holden is a very unhappy character. Why is he unhappy? His unhappiness is exhibited through intoxication, mood swings, violence, lying, criticisms of thers, (Quoting Freud Holden wants to remove himself form society to avoid suffering, it is his solution for his unhappiness) Unhappiness is not abnormal it isn't a sign of insanity, it's a common condition that many of us feel especially as teenagers. Holden is a very unhappy character.

He is not insane though, he is just a normal teenager. His emotions take a large toll on his life. The way he exhibits his emotions make him look insane and different from others in his society. Many teens are like Holden, they all have emotional suffering but exhibit them in different ways. Holden is unhappy because he might not have anything to keep him busy. He has no real hobbies, jobs, or cares.

He has no real cares because his grandmother funds him somewhat, and he attends boarding school. Freud says, " One gains the most if one can sufficiently heighten the yield of pleasure from the sources of psychical and intellectual work. When that is so, fate can do little against one. "- Sigmund Freud- Civilization and its Discontents. I agree with Freud in this one, because employed people are often less depressed than the unemployed.

Holden's unhappiness is also caused by others around him. He refers to everyone pessimistically because they do not understand him, act like him, or live with his views on life. An example is Robert Ackley, he never brushes his teeth, and has very little personal hygiene. Holden says, "Ackley, for Christ sake, willya please cut your crummy nails over the table please. Ive askyed ya fifty times".

And Ackley say, "I brush my teeth. Don't gimme that." "No you don't. I've seen you, and you don't." (PG.

25) Holden criticizes almost everyone in the book. Holden also exhibits his unhappiness by intoxication. Holden sometimes drinks his problems away. He will go to a bar and get "drunk as a bastard" (PG150.

). Freud says, "For one knows that, with the help of this "drowner of cares" one can at any time withdraw from pressure of reality and find refuge in a world of ones own with better conditions of sensibility." - Sigmund Freud- Civilization and its Discontents. Holden uses violence as well to escape from unhappiness. Holden tries to kill his roommate Stradlater while he is brushing his teeth.

"All I know is I got up or something then I tried to sock him, with all my might, right smack into the toothbrush so it would split his goddam throat open..." (PG. 3) Holden uses verbal violence to solve his problems as well. He loves to curse others when he is angry. "You're a dirty stupid sunovabitch moron..." (PG. 43) Holden's mood swings can also indicate his unhappiness about life.

When Holden hires a prostitute named Sunny, he feels a prostitute would make him feel better but when she arrives he blows her off. This is either a sign that he was scared, or he was feeling much better when she arrived. Holden's mood immediately changed when Sunny's pimp Maurice entered Holden's room and socked Holden in the stomach again. This made Holden feel unhappy like he was before. Holden wants to remove himself from society to avoid suffering, it is his solution to avoid unhappiness.

He wants nothing to do with many people he comes by. Holden's idea to withdraw from society is to move to Vermont with Jane in a cabin. Holden's main solution was to just withdraw from society, which he didn't find as easy as his other resorts. As Freud says, " Against the suffering which may come upon one from human relationships the readiest safeguard is voluntary isolation, keeping oneself aloof from other people. The happiness which can be achieved along this path is, as we see, the happiness of quietness.

Against the dreaded external world one can only defend oneself by some kind of turning away from it, if one intends to solve the task by oneself. " - Sigmund Freud, *Civilizations and its Discontents*. Holden Caulfield is sane like any other teenager his age. He may seem insane because he deals with his unhappiness more extremely, by drinking, violence, lies, critiquing others, etc, but his behavior isn't much different than any other teenager his age. His wanting to withdraw from society is just another way to try and deal with his unhappiness. I believe Holden will outgrow this sort of depressive phase he is going through, I believe when he is older he will lead a resourceful life full of adventures.

Throughout the book *Catcher in the Rye*, Holden was not helped with his unhappiness. Throughout the novel Holden tried many un-resourceful approaches to rid his depression, but in time I feel he will be helped.