

# American cold war in literature

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Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest The bell jar and one flew over the cuckoo's nest can be linked considerably. Both novels are set in 1950' America post the 'cold war' an era where conformity and obedience is a norm and anything that impairs it isn't seen as a benefit to society. Both novels explore themes such as paranoia, suspicion and mentalhealth. The Bell Jar has a significant opening with the first sentence that mentions the execution of the Rosenbergs " It was a queer, sultry summer, the summer they electrocuted the

Rosenbergs" The opening immediately foreshadows the expectations that arrive in the novel in addition how society at the time behaved and based assumptions on. The fact that the sentence first opens with the description of electrocution has a major impact as the electrocution is a chilling topic that Esther has to encounter throughout the novel, as the subject of electrocution has been deliberately made important in the first chapter it reflects Esther's severe perception of the subject its self.

Furthermore in chapter 1 It is assumed that paranoia and suspicion also have an mportant role in the chapter " Goggle-eyed headlines staring up at me on every street corner" the suggestion that society segregated members for having a view point and opinion on controversial topics, and the fact members had to conform if not there will be raised issues and suspicion. In comparison the opening chapter of One flew over the cuckoos nest also starts with paranoia and suspicion " They are out there" this condemns the audience to question who and what is out there, a ideology that 1950's America was secluding Individuals on opinions and mental health.

Both of the novels are written in first person narratives which directly parks us into the state of mind of the characters allowing us to ponder and take upon their imagination to perceive the world as they do such as the striking imagery we receive. " I felt as though I were carrying that cadavers head around with me on a string, like some black, noseless balloon stinking of vinegar" this imagery puts the reader in the position that we start to realise that death is forever following Esther and it is a reoccurring threat to her and the idea of her not conforming.

Through her first person narrative we are able to place our self's in her position and see the world from her eyes. In comparison to *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* it is also written in the first person narrative through the eyes of a mental health patient, similarly to *The Bell Jar* we are placed into a mind of a patient that isn't condemned as 'sane' so therefore has a significant impact on the questioning in what is normal or not.

*The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. Furthermore in chapter 1 it is assumed that paranoia and suspicion also have an impact. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* also starts with paranoia and suspicion " They are out there" this condemns the audience to question who and what is out there, an ideology that 1950's America was secluding individuals on opinions and mental health.

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