

## *Catcher in the Rye: Catcher Motif*

In *The Catcher in the Rye*, Holden says that he would like to be a catcher in the rye. One might argue, and you will in this paper, that Holden's actions are driven by his desire to be a catcher. In this paper, analyze, make sense for your reader, some of Holden's behavior. What upsets Holden? Why? Think of Holden as being on a journey. At the end of this journey, is he a catcher in the rye?

Make sure you do not summarize the story. Your audience is someone who has read *Catcher in the Rye* for enjoyment. You are teaching them why the title of the book is *Catcher in the Rye* and how that title provides the theme of the book. You are showing them how everything in the novel supports the idea of Holden wanting to be a catcher. In one body paragraph, you might want to explain the possible motivation for wanting to be a catcher. You must use textual evidence to support that argument. In other body paragraphs, you will want to analyze what Holden does or says. You want to argue that he does or says something because he desires to be a catcher.

**Introduction:** follow ANT for the introduction.

- **A**ttention-getter. The attention-getter should be general and interesting. It should draw the reader in. It should also connect thematically to the thesis.
- **N**ecessary information:
  - Author's name
  - Title of work
  - Very Brief plot summary that builds up to your thesis. (Do not summarize entire story. Summarize only information that will be needed for the rest of the paper.)
- **T**hesis:
  - Your thesis should make an argument. Look at notes from class. We will discuss several ways one can write a thesis for this paper.

**Body Paragraphs:** You will most likely have 3 body paragraphs.

- Make sure each body paragraph has a **t**opic sentence.
- Make sure that you **i**ntroduce your quotes
  - Make sure that you provide some context. Who says the words? Where are they said? When are they said? Are they in response to someone? Are they describing something? Pretend that your reader hasn't read the book in a very long time.
- Provide **q**uotes that support your topic sentence.
- Provide an **a**nalysis of how this quote supports your argument or your topic sentence.

**Conclusion:**

- Restate your thesis. **R**ESTATE, not rewrite. Say your thesis again, but say it in a creatively different way.
- Briefly **R**evue your support. This should be done in 1-2 sentences.
- State the importance of your argument. Try to **R**elate the argument to the broader world.
- **R**ound off—your last impression to the reader should relate back to the attention-getter or the title.