

Phoniness in *Catcher in the Rye*

On the first day of class, this paper is due. It must be typed. If you have questions about the paper, you may contact Mr. Lettiere at blettiere@argohs.net or Ms. Walsh at ewalsh@argohs.net. You should also attend the book chat on August 10, 2009. That is the Monday before school starts.

Directions: when you are finished reading *Catcher in the Rye*, write a short paper (3-4 pages). This paper should be a reflection/reaction paper. In this paper, first work out a personal definition of phoniness. During this part of the paper, try to bring in examples from our world today. Also, discuss why phoniness bothers Holden. Do teenagers today have a difficult time with people being phony? What are some modern examples of parents/adults/teachers/friends/etc. being phonies?

(This part can be 2-4 paragraphs long).

Then choose at least 4 moments when characters around Holden are being phony. Be sure to explain what it is that they do and then make it clear how this action or event is phony. Please be sure to quote from the book and include page numbers.

(This can be 4-8 paragraphs long).

Very important: Do not summarize anything in this book. Provide the event and then explain how it is phony.

Example:

Below is what could be a part of a paragraph. The student has found an example of Stradlater being phony (pretending to well-groomed when he really is a slob). And then the student explained how this is an example of being phony.

"Stradlater was more a secret slob. He always looked all right, but for instance, you should've seen the razor he shaved himself with. It was always rusty as hell and full of lather and hairs and crap" (27). Stradlater puts out the image of cleanliness. He is a good looking boy. It makes it seem that being clean is extremely important. But this is only superficial. As it turns out, he does not conduct his life with clean habits that fit the appearance that he puts off. This adds to Holden's idea of him be a "phony."