



The Catcher In The Rye Essay

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Discuss the characteristics of Holden's relationships with adults (other than his parents).



Thesis/introduction

- In the book "Catcher In The Rye" by J.D. Salinger, Holden acts strange around other adults. He almost acts like he is more mature than them. So, what are the characteristics of Holdens relationship with adults other than his parents.
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Paragraph 1

- So, throughout the book Holden has a strong relationship with adults. He seems to look up to them in a way and want to be like them. Throughout the book he is always drinking booze and smoking cigarettes and thinking a lot about sex. That is what adults do so I think that he wants to be an adult so badly that is why Holden would always be drinking and smoking. I think he was just trying to fit in with every other adult. Like in the book Holden asks Ms. Morrow "Would you care for a cocktail?"(page 57) "We can go in the club car"(page 57). That is one example of when Holden tries to get an older woman to get a drink with him at the bar. He even tries to get her to believe that he is at the legal age to drink.

Paragraph 2

- All throughout the book Holden meets different adults, for instance at the very beginning of the book when Holden goes to meet Mr. Spencer he thinks of their relationship as if they were long time friends. For the most part Mr. Spencer doesn't shut this idea down immediately, after a while Mr. Spencer switches the status from friends to teacher-student, this for Holden is a sign of disrespect since an adult figure won't take him seriously as an adult. Part of the reason people don't treat him as an adult is because he is immature, early in the book Holden mentions that he is 6'2 and has grey hairs, he also mentions that he acts like a 13-year-old. Holden wants to be seen as an adult maybe because he thinks he can have a more mature relationship with older people than people his age even though he is not the most mature person his age.



Conclusion

- Holden acts like an adult, although most adults in the book do not see Holden as an adult. Adults in the book often talk to him for little time and figure out he isn't mature or an adult
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Cited

- Salinger, JD. *The Catcher in the Rye*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, Limited, 1951. Print.



The End