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Alienation as a form of self-protection

Alienation is a state of being isolated from an individual or a group. People alienates from others for several reasons. In *the Catcher in The Rye*, alienation is viewed ³ as a way of self-protection. In the novel *The Catcher in The Rye, Salinger* uses Holden to explore the theme of alienation as a form of self-protection through several chapters. In chapter 9, alienation is well portrayed through holden. "The first thing I did when I got off at Penn station, I went to this booth. I felt like giving someone a buzz. I could not think of anybody to call up" (Perr, 00:00: 01- 00:00:17). Here, Holden appears to try as much as he can ¹ to call someone the moment he Lands in New York. However, he changes his mind and gets scared of what his friend would view him, and thus he alienates himself from all of them. He thought of calling Gallagher's mother, but he felt he did not like it. He also decided to call Sally and ended up fearing that her mother would answer the phone. This also keeps him protected and alienated.

In chapter 16, we find Holden asking a young ¹ girl in the park if she would like to have a hot chocolate after offering him ² help. "I asked her if she was scared to have a hot chocolate with me, but she said no, thank you. She had to meet her friend. Here Salinger tries to portray alienation in that this girl had rejected, and thus he gets filled with sadness and loneliness and leaves the park.

The next instance of alienation as a form of self-protection is in chapter 10. "I certainly would not mind shooting the crap with old Phoebe for a while (Perr,00:00: 56- 00:00: 59). Here Holden has some love for his sister and adores her. He still has the feeling of being alienated because it becomes hard for him to reach. Holden is looking and needs a human connection from Phoebe, and he only gets it from his sister only because she accepts and understands him very well. Further, as evident in chapter 17, Holden appears to be Lonely, which makes him date Sally. However, alienation makes him insult Sally driving her away.

Discussion post

Holden tells people he meets phony for some reason. First, he often interacts with fake and dishonest people. Most of the people he meets play a part to fit into society, and this is something he keeps questioning. I consider people as phonies and hate them, arguing that are what he fears and fights. In most instances in the novel, we find Holden with girls like Phoebe, his sister, and Jane Gallagher. However, he views many girls as phonies while they are the nearest friends around. Second, Salinger describes Holden's and Stradlater's relationship. They are roommates at Pencey. The author describes Stradlater as good looking, but Holden is good to think that he is just a mere slob following his behavior of shaving with a dirty razor. He calls people phonies because they can't care for the feelings of others. This is well portrayed through Stradlater, who goes for a date with Jane and treat this kind of date as a sexual conquest. In the novel, the author introduces us to a girl called Sally Hayes. This girl has been driving Holden crazy. He has dated her on and off for a longer time, and thus to Holden's eyes, this makes sally a phony. In the novel, sometimes, Holdens appears to be lying. I think the reason for lying is a way of protecting his privacy and avoid hurting his friend with the truth. Besides, he lies so that he might stay away

from punishment because he feared embarrassment. From the novel, we find Holden giving real names to some people but not others. For instance, in most of his conversation, he calls himself Rudolph Schmidt. He does this to represent himself as another different person. Sensibly I consider this a way of isolating himself from others because he does not want to be close to people, and also, he has never accepted himself.

Work cited

The Catcher in The Rye. YouTube. Uploaded by Ian Herr Nov 14, 2019

https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLERafq9CdKs7dR2MD1yTT6aK9Y-ke13nc&v=o5LGD3wmMV8&feature=emb_title

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