L. Ruffin-Johnson

AP Lit/Honors Brit Lit.

*Catcher in the Rye* Activities

**Identifying Themes in Literature**

Use the form that I have given you to create theme journal. (This is similar to your dialectical journal.) You may opt to use your own paper.

**THEMES**

**In the first column,** write the theme. The letter will be sufficient.

**In the second column,** write the quote and the page number.

**In the third column,** write the interpretation of how the quote illustrates one of the themes.

**In the fourth column,** explain how the quote fits in with the plot and/or analyze how the quote develops Holden’s character.

Write significant quotes/excerpts from the text in the second column. The excerpts will add meaning for your understanding of one of the following themes or the development of Holden as a character.

* (P) Phoniness or Phonies
* (D) Depression
* (A) Coming of Age or Childhood **vs.** Adulthood
* (R) Religion and Faith
* (F) Dealing with Fear

**Self-Evident Details (Level 1)** Cite 20 entries total. The entries must appear in chronological order. Be sure to specify the theme discussed with the initial(s) that flags what theme(s) the quote represents.

* Entries 1-4 should correspond to chapters 1-5
* Entries 5-8 with Chapters 6-10
* Entries 9-12 with Chapters 11-15
* Entries 13-16 with Chapters 16-20
* Entries 17-20 with Chapters 21-26

**Interpretation of the quote/excerpt (Level 2)** In the third column, write your interpretation of how the quote/excerpt illustrates one of the themes above.

**Explanation/Analysis of the quote (Level 3)** In the fourth column, explain how the quote/excerpt fits in with the plot of the novel, or analyze how the character of Holden is being developed.

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| CHAPTERS 1-5 of *Catcher in the Rye* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 points for each section | | | |
| THEME | LEVEL 1-QUOTE/PAGE # | LEVEL 2-INTERPRETATION | LEVEL 3-ANALYSIS/EXPLANATION |
| 1.  (A) Childhood vs. Adulthod | “Life is a game, boy. Life is a game that one plays according to the rules.”  Page 8 | This is a quote that rings familiar to me. This quote made by Mr. Spencer, Holden’s history teacher, reminds me of a quote that Dr. Bledsoe made to the Invisible Man in the novel, *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. Dr. Bledsoe tells the Invisible Man that he controls the white people, and they don’t even know it. He makes them think they are in charge. He knows how to act like a good Negro when the time calls for it. Dr. Bledsoe tells him even the dumbest field slave knows how to lie to the white man. This quote about life being a game illustrates the theme of childhood vs. adulthood. As one grows and has life experiences, one quickly realizes that life isn’t fair. Sometimes people will have to become someone other than themselves or to do things that may compromise his or her character in order to obtain “the prize.” Usually, one does not feel like a winner when their standards and character are compromised, however. When someone else is controlling the game or is in charge of the game, we, unfortunately, may have to play by their rules. | In my opinion, this quote may affect Holden in more than one way. Holden seems not to be taking anything seriously. In this chapter, it is revealed to the reader that Holden isn’t taking his education or life seriously for that matter. Hearing that “life is a game” by someone who is an authority figure, may cause Holden never to learn his lesson or never to take responsibility for his actions. If life is a game, is there a need to take responsibility or to “grow up”? However, it seems that Holden may have already realized that life is a game. This could be detrimental to Holden and those around him. |
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| 3. |  |  |  |
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| **CHAPTERS 6-10 of *Catcher in the Rye* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 points for each section** | | | |
| THEME | LEVEL 1-QUOTE/PAGE # | LEVEL 2-INTERPRETATION | LEVEL 3-ANALYSIS/EXPLANATION |
| 1. |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |
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| **CHAPTERS 11-15 of *Catcher in the Rye* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 points for each section** | | | |
| THEME | LEVEL 1-QUOTE/PAGE # | LEVEL 2-INTERPRETATION | LEVEL 3-ANALYSIS/EXPLANATION |
| 1. |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |
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| **CHAPTERS 16-20 of *Catcher in the Rye* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 points for each section** | | | |
| THEME | LEVEL 1-QUOTE/PAGE # | LEVEL 2-INTERPRETATION | LEVEL 3-ANALYSIS/EXPLANATION |
| 1. |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |
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| **CHAPTERS 21-26 of *Catcher in the Rye* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 points for each section** | | | |
| THEME | LEVEL 1-QUOTE/PAGE # | LEVEL 2-INTERPRETATION | LEVEL 3-ANALYSIS/EXPLANATION |
| 1. |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |  |
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