

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

In the novel The Catcher in the Rye, the author J.D. Salinger portrays the protagonist, Holden Caulfield as a teenager who is afraid of accepting changes in his life. He does not want to be an adult because he thinks that becoming an adult is to be 'phony' and live in lies. For the reason that he can not change anything in becoming an adult, he maintains his children way of thought that according to him leads a simple life and full of compassionate. On the other hand, the society around him sees him as a naïve and immature person.

In the present writer's outlook, Holden's experiences are limited and so his attitudes are dismissed as an innocent youth. He is separated due to his inability or unwillingness to conform to the greedy attitudes of American societies at that time (50's). Holden feels like a loner in a corrupted environment, and he desperately seeks a human connection that will make him feel whole. He prefers not to exist in adult world than to be a 'phony', which in his idea are dishonesty, arrogance, injustice and a lot more. He would rather be depressed and have an ultimate conflict inside.

The Catcher in the Rye is a story of a boy falling from innocence to enter adulthood. Today, when somebody holds on to their innocence they are often

considered loner, naive; and in the persons' mind everyone who considers him this, is a 'phony', like how Holden saw everyone.

Holden's dream to be the catcher in the rye is inspired by a poem written by Robert Burns originally means somebody who wants to keep the children playing in the field and prevent them from falling off the cliff. The present writer assumes the field to be a childhood world and the cliff as the line to the adult world. Holden wishes to preserve something of childhood innocence that gets hopelessly lost as we grow into the crazy and 'phony' world of adulthood. But it vanishes when Holden realizes that every child must fall off the cliff into the adult world where he himself can not restrain.

The present writer is certain that a person like Holden Caulfield will always exist in the middle of the society, since our origin that never feel enough for what we have had. An individual like Holden is a reverse reflection side of the society. When we sometime do not realize what this world is going to be with our ego and dissatisfaction may we look through the glasses of Holden's opinion with his purity as a child. We need another 'Holden Caulfield' to keep reminding us to value each other as an individual, not through their material and social status.

In this novel, through the controversial character of Holden that is created by the author, Salinger makes Holden as a medium of all his criticism towards the society around him. The present writer thinks that Salinger is successful in criticizing and bringing up the social trash through all his criticisms by his protagonist in this novel. The present writer is in the same opinion that there are so many social values lost in society wherever it is. This novel vividly shows the fact of the social poor quality which is all true, but we are not realizing or we are too 'phony' to admit it. In this novel Salinger has somehow managed to capture the conflicts and identity crises which

many young adults experience and gives critical look at the problems faced by American youth during the 1950's.

Perhaps the lesson to be learned and what the author tries to depict from his protagonist's character in regards to wealth, corruption and the American dream, is that no matter how many beautiful, expensive things one is surrounded by, true happiness can only be found from within.