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First book reading assignment – J. D. Salinger: The Catcher in the Rye: Homework essay

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Relationship between Sally and Holden

J. D. Salinger: The Catcher in the Rye: Homework essay

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1. Introduction

Sally and the protagonist of the story, Holden both have very different characteristic attributes and live their lives with different sets of personality traits. That is why they are unable to work with each other in a productive and successful manner. Holden thinks that whenever he is accompanied by Sally she constantly tries to make herself a victim and blame Holden for it.

2. Body

Although Sally is attractive and superficially intelligent, she lacks emotional qualities Holden admires. Holden names her the queen of phonies because she is the exact example of the members of society that Holden dislikes. She can't concentrate on one thing and proceed with that persistently, but is quickly distracted by other stimuli from the environment.

Holden is different on the other hand; he pursues an idea of his perfect world where everyone can connect and communicate with each other, even if he would never be able to make that idea become a reality, he will look forward to that. Sally does not appreciate his attempts of creating a better world and faced the fact that life is a game you have to play by the rule. To sum up, Holden names her the queen of phonies.

Holden sometimes gets very passionate about impossible and irrational actions with her. He wants to marry her and move with her to a distant cottage in the middle of nowhere, but Sally, however, keeps her realistic mind straight and discards Holden's thoughts with such anger that Holden really starts to hate her. That's why their relationship has ups and downs and will never reach full potential unless Holden changes his thoughts about the society, which is unlikely to happen.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, Holden and Sally are not able to form a consistent relationship. In contrast of Holden's relationships with other woman, Sally is Holden's last choice and they are both aware that their relationship cannot be taken a step further.

4. Sources

- Salinger, J. The Catcher in the Rye. 1951. Little, Brown and Company.