

Quest Companions

We have discussed in class how Holden's story is like a quest--where the ultimate prize is self-knowledge. One of the key characteristics of the quest is that the questor does not accomplish this on his or her own but needs the help of others. The last line of the novel seems to reflect this. When Holden says: "Don't ever tell anybody anything. If you do, you start missing everybody," it reflects his recognition that these people were important to him. Your task is to select a minor character from the novel (not Phoebe) and tell how that person was instrumental in Holden's self-realization.

Details:

A 2-3 page essay, formatted according to [MLA style](#), with a thesis that clearly states the minor character and the impact the character had on Holden.

Use [Google Docs](#) to write your essay, [sharing the document](#) with me and two other students in class.

Include textual evidence that supports your thesis.

Here are some questions which may help you if you get stuck:

- How does an author develop a character?
- How do we determine an author's purpose in a text?
- How do we most effectively present an argument to an audience?
- How do we analyze the literary devices used by authors to achieve characterization, purpose and theme?
- How does point of view affect a text?
- How and/or why do people become alienated from their society?
- Is a character responsible for alienating himself from society, or is he driven out?
- What is revealed about our society through characters?
- How do outside influences affect characters' choices?
- How do people forge healthy relationships? What creates unhealthy relationships?
- What do relationships provide for those involved?