

# **THE CATCHER IN THE RYE: RANT LIKE HOLDEN**

## **The Background**

Holden has a mistrustful, cynical view of adult society. He views growing up as a slow surrender to the “phony” responsibilities of adult life, such as getting a job, serving in the military, and maintaining intimate relationships. However, Holden himself continually falls victim to the very same “phoniness” he criticizes—he is hypocritical; he contradicts himself; he lies; and, though he would prefer to stay frozen in the perpetual innocence of childhood, he goes to great pains to prove his adulthood by cursing, smoking, drinking, and showing off.

## **The Task**

Using the stylistic elements of Holden’s narrative delivery, choose a contemporary topic and give it your best Holden-like rant. Your rant should be at least one paragraph long, or approximately 200 words.

**DUE MONDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup>.**

## **The Rubric**

**5 Tangible**--reach and touch it. Etched with sure strokes. Seen through a discerning eye. Irrefutable. Lives and breathes. Fine brush strokes. Doesn't miss a trick. What matters most. Distinct. Attentive to telling details. Captures the quintessential. True to the original. Graphic. "You had to be there" moments. Precise. Selective. In focus. Notices everything.

**3 The quick once-over.** Broad brushstrokes--sweeping details. Hints at critical details. Never gets too close. A light sketch. Shows the man in the coat--but not the tarnish on the buttons. Coming into focus. General. Panoramic. Mix of critical and trivial. Just out of reach. The big picture. Generic. Partly in shadow. Partly illuminated. Notices the obvious. Readily foretold.

**1 Details blurry or lost.** Paints outside the lines. Insubstantial. Obfuscated. Seen through the fog. Abstract. Bodiless. Misses even the obvious. Out of focus. Faint, colorless. Holes in the canvas. Nebulous. Unanswered questions. Reader struggles for clues. Imprecise. Feeble. Clouded. Fuzzy. Misty.

Note: Scale points 2 and 4 are not specifically described.

Chicago Public Schools Bureau of Student Assessment