

华北电力大学（保定）

硕士学位论文

错位的精神家园——析《麦田守望者》中象征手法对主题的深化

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20051220

摘 要

《麦田里的守望者》是杰罗姆·大卫·塞林格唯一的长篇小说。小说通过叙述霍尔顿在纽约近三天的游荡经历，再现了五十年代美国青年矛盾的心理状态和人们在富裕的物质生活背后的精神挣扎。

本文共四章，通过分析小说中的象征手法，论证了主人公霍尔顿的错位的精神家园。第一章，介绍作家、作品、象征理论、文献综述及本论文的目的。第二章，基于小说中象征手法的运用，分析了霍尔顿精神家园的错位。霍尔顿的装束喜好，游荡中的逃避和幻想，象征他不仅死守过去，错失现在，而且梦幻未来。第三章，通过分析小说中的象征论证了霍尔顿错位的精神家园毁灭地必然性。霍尔顿心中唯一的依赖——鸭舌帽——在大自然面前的无助，霍尔顿在抑郁混乱生活中的脱离实际的幻想，注定他错位的精神家园必然毁灭。第四章，对错位的精神家园的反思。塞林格运用象征手法淋漓尽致地表达了主人公的错位精神家园，反映了二战后人们的精神状态，同时给读者以深刻启迪。

关键词：死守过去，错失现在，幻想未来，象征手法，错位的精神家园

ABSTRACT

The Catcher in the Rye is the only novel by J. D. Salinger. It depicts Holden's three-day-roving in New York to reflect the contradictory psychology and the spiritual struggle under the material wealth of American youth in 1950's.

Based on Salinger's employment of symbolism, this thesis analyzes Holden's disordered mentality in four chapters. Chapter One introduces the author, the novel, symbolism, literature review and the aim of the thesis. Chapter Two demonstrates Holden's disordered mentality from the perspective of his clinging to the past, missing the present and indulging in fantasy. Chapter Three illustrates the doom of Holden's disordered mentality by analyzing symbolic things. Chapter Four is the reflections on Holden's disordered mentality. Salinger's vivid description of Holden's disordered mentality reflects the people's disordered spiritual mentality after WWII and inspires the readers deeply.

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KEY WORDS: clinging to the past, missing the present, indulging in fantasy, symbolism, disordered mentality

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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction to Salinger

Jerome David Salinger (1919-), a distinguished American novelist and short story writer, is best known for his novel *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951). Salinger is recognized by many critics and readers alike as one of the most popular and influential authors of American writers after World War II. His only novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*, has become one of the two “modern classics” in contemporary American literature (the other one is Ralph Ellison’s *The Invisible Man* published in 1952).

J. D. Salinger was born on January 1, 1919 in New York City. As an undistinguished student, he flunked out of several private preparatory schools before graduating from Valley Forge Military Academy (the model for *Catcher’s* Pencey Prep) in 1936, where he edited *Cross Sabres*. Later, he spent short periods at New York University, Ursinus College, and Columbia University. From 1942 through 1946, he served in the 4th Infantry Division of U.S. Army, achieving the rank of staff sergeant. He married Claire Douglas in 1955, but they divorced in 1967.

Salinger is really at his best in the description and revelation of psychological sick men like Sergeant X, Holden, and so on, whose thoughts are different from the normal people. In 1951, Salinger’s most famous work, *The Catcher in the Rye*, came into the world and became one of the most popular novels of the latter half of the twentieth century.

In the same year that *The Catcher in the Rye* appeared, Salinger published a short story in the *New Yorker* magazine called “A Perfect Day for Bananafish” which proved to be the first in a series of stories about the fictional Glass family. Over the next decade, other “Glass” stories appeared in the same magazine: “Fanny,” “Zooey,” and “Raise High the Roof-Beam Carpenters.” These and other stories are available in the only other books Salinger published besides *The Catcher in the Rye: Nine Stories* (1953), *Fanny and Zooey* (1961), and *Raise High the Roof-Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction* (1963). Though *Nine Stories* received some critical acclaim, the critical reception of the later stories was extremely hostile. Critics generally found the Glass siblings to be ridiculously and insufferably precocious and judgmental ^[1].

Beginning in the early 1960s, as his critical reputation began to wane, Salinger began to publish less and to disengage from society. In 1965, after publishing another Glass story that was almost universally reviled by critics, he withdrew almost completely from public life, a stance he has maintained up to the present. This reclusiveness, ironically, has made Salinger even more famous, transforming him into something of a cult figure. To some degree, Salinger's cult status has overshadowed, or at least tinged, many readers' perceptions of his work. As a recluse, Salinger seems embody much the same spirit as his precocious, wounded characters, and many readers seem to view author and characters as almost the same being. Such a reading of Salinger's work clearly oversimplifies the process of fiction writing and the relationship between the author and his creations. But, given Salinger's iconoclastic behavior, the general view that Salinger is himself a sort of Holden Caulfield is understandable ^[2].

1.2 Introduction to the Novel

The Catcher in the Rye is set in the 1950s and is narrated by a young man named Holden Caulfield. Holden does not tell his location specifically while he's telling the story, but he makes it clear that he is currently undergoing treatment in some sort of medical facility. The events he narrates take place at the end of the year, when Holden is sixteen years old.

Holden's story begins on the Saturday following the end of classes at the Pencey prep school in Agerstown, Pennsylvania. Pencey is Holden's fourth school. He has already failed out of three others. Because of failing four out of five of his classes, he is flunked out of Pencey once again. Also, because he can not make a good communication and understanding with his roommate Stradlater, he leaves Pencey before the scheduled Wednesday. After leaving Pencey, he begins his nearly three days roving in New York.

The first night, he enters a hotel, and then comes into two clubs. After going back the hotel, he accepts the offer of a prostitute. The next day morning, he calls his girlfriend Sally and makes an appointment. After seeing the matinee, Holden and Sally go skating and leave each other with angry. The next night, he firstly gets drunk in a bar, and then sits on the bench in the park for a long time, later he sneaks into Phoebe's room, soon his parents come home and he sneaks out and sleeps in Antolini's house. Surprised, the best teacher he has ever respected pats him on his head when they're asleep, so he escapes the teacher's house mistaking his teacher as a gay person. Once again Holden escapes a place and runs for the station and spends his late night there. The next morning,

because of his sister Phoebe, he does not go to the west but enter some sort of medical facilities.

1.3 The Theory of Symbolism

Symbolism is the name given to a literary movement that originated in France in the last half of 19th century, strongly influenced British writing around the turn of the century, and has been a dominant force in British and American poetry in the 20th century. In America in the middle of 19th century, symbolism was the dominant literary trend. In this symbolism movement, the details of the natural world and the actions of people were used to suggest philosophical ideas and themes. Symbolism is also a distinctive feature of the novels of Hawthorne (notably *The Scarlet Letter* and *The Marble Faun*) and of Melville, whose *Moby-Dick* is probably the most original work of symbolic art in American Literature^[3].

A symbol, according to Webster's Dictionary, is "something that stands for something else by reason of relationship, association, convention, or accidental resemblance.....a visible sign of something invisible." Symbols, in this sense, are with us all the time, for there are few words or objects that do not evoke, at least in certain contexts, a wide range of associated meanings and feelings^[4]. In literature, however, symbols---in the form of words, images, objects, settings, events, and characters---are often used deliberately to suggest and reinforce meaning, to provide enrichment by enlarging and clarifying the experience of the work, and to help to organize and unify the whole. William York Tyndall, a well-regarded scholar and author of *The Literary Symbol* (1955), likens the literary symbol to "a metaphor one half of which remains unstated and indefinite." The analogy is a good one. Although symbols exist first as something literal and concrete within the work itself, they also have the capacity to call to mind a range of invisible and abstract associations, both intellectual and emotional, that transcend the literal and concrete and extend their meaning. A literary symbol brings together what is material and concrete within the work (the visible half of Tyndall's metaphor) with its series of associations; by fusing them, however briefly, in the reader's imagination, new layers and dimensions of meaning, suggestiveness, and significance are added^[5].

Symbols are usually classified as being universal or contextual, depending on the source of the associations that provide their meaning. Universal or cultural symbols are those whose associations are the common property of a society or culture and are so

widely recognized and accepted that they can be said to be almost universal. These types of symbols are sometimes also called traditional symbols. They embody ideas or emotions that the writer and the reader share in common as a result of their social and cultural heritage. Contextual, authorial, or private symbols are those whose associations are neither immediate nor traditional; instead, they derive their meaning, largely if not exclusively, from the context of the work in which they are used. Some poets, however, repeatedly use symbols whose significance they largely generate themselves, and these pose a more difficult problem in interpretation^[6].

The identification and understanding of literary symbols requires a great deal from the reader. They demand awareness and intelligence: an ability to detect when the emphasis an author places on certain elements within the work can be legitimately said to carry those elements within the work can be legitimately said to carry those elements to larger, symbolic levels, and when the author means to imply nothing beyond what is literally stated^[7]. The emphasis of the symbolists is the author and the reader can search for the real emotional communication and the reader can observe the concrete emotions and thoughts of the author through the concrete symbols^[8].

So symbols are critically important for readers to fully understand the novel. Only do the readers grasp the real meaning of the symbols the readers can understand the novel deeply. A symbol as a kind of peculiar artistry is used to represent or suggest a kind of thing, with the reasonable connection, imagination, convention and unintentionally similarity. Especially, a symbol is to use a kind of visible object to suggest an invisible thing. So symbols in the novel are to use the visible persons, events and objects to show the invisible thoughts and emotions which can only be seen through the visible things. It is proved that only when we have grasped and fully understood the symbols in the novel, can the deep thoughts, conceptions and themes of the novel be well understood by the readers.

There are many symbols in *The Catcher in the Rye*, such as the red hunting hat, the abnormal way of wearing hat, the natural museum, and the two colors: red and black, and even the title of *The Catcher in the Rye*. Although the novel is easy to read, it is very difficult to understand just because of so many symbols used in it. Taking this into consideration, this paper tries to explore Holden's disordered mentality from Salinger's employment of symbolism.

1.4 Literature Review

Ever since 1951, *The Catcher in the Rye* has been a focus of great public and critical attention. The popularity of the novel and the debate over its redeeming social value have never faltered, due in no large part to the fact that J. D. Salinger has now been a recluse for decades. Some critics have argued about the moral issues raised by the book and the context in which it is presented. They all have felt forced to contemplate society's attitude toward the human condition, and have argued that Salinger's tale is fascinating and enlightening, yet somehow very depressing. Many critics have based their arguments around the psychological battles of the novel's main character, Holden Caulfield. They generally have held a high opinion of Salinger's art and found *The Catcher in the Rye* to be a congenial book in almost every aspect of their formalistic concerns. Others, however, have scolded the novel as being too pessimistic or obscene, too harsh for the society of the 1950's. They are generally worried about Holden's bad manner and non-conformism, his incidents of depression, nervous breakdown, impulsive spending, sexual exploration, vulgarity, and other erratic behavior. There are still some other critics who choose not to particularly criticize any of Salinger's works but to comment on the whole of Salinger's art and on the whole of what George Steiner has referred to as the Salinger industry instead^[9]. They have tried to view Salinger and his works in a larger and historical context.

The fascination of the novel is largely due to the deep psychological analysis of the protagonist. The author depicts Holden's contradictory and psychopathic state of mind in details. Many theses analyze Holden as a psychopath such as German critic Hence Phonurt depicted Holden's loneliness in terms of psychoanalysis. He considered that there are two worlds in Holden's mind. One is made up of Ackley, Stradlater and prostitute Sunny who represent the ugly world, the other is made up of his dead brother Allie, little sister Phoebe and nuts who represent the pure and beautiful world. Because of the disappearing of the latter world, Holden became lonely day after day^[10].

S. N. Behrman also took a sharp look at Holden's personality and found Caulfield to be a true moral idealist whose attitude comes from an intense hatred of phoniness, an idea under which he lumps insincerity, snobbery, injustice, callousness, and a lot more. In Behrman's point of view, Holden is a double-minded, hypersensitive and hyper-imaginative adolescent who is also inexorably self-critical, as he often refers to himself as yellow, a terrible liar, a madman, and a moron. Hence Holden is also curious

and compassionate, a prodigious worrier, and someone who is moved to pity quite often. Behrman also noted rightly in the same review that Jane Gallapher, together with his dead brother Allie and his little sister Phoebe, constitutes Holden's emotional frame of reference and represent the everlasting symbols of goodness for him. Behrman wrote:

It is characteristic of Holden that although he is crazy about Jane, always thinking of her, always wanting to call her up, he never does call her up. He is always about to but doesn't, because he's never "in the mood."..... He keeps calling up a girl named Sally Hayes, whose manifest phoniness gives him "a royal pain," but he writes that off as the overhead of sex. He can never risk it with Jane ^[11].

Generally, critics view *The Catcher in the Rye* as Holden Caulfield's transitional struggle to survive in the adult world. For example, David L. Stevenson, who is content to take Salinger for what he is: "a beautifully deft, professional performer who gives us a chance to catch quick, half-amused, half-frightened glimpses of ourselves and our contemporaries, as he confronts us with his brilliant mirror images"^[12].

Another widespread criticism of *The Catcher in the Rye* deals with the need of social interaction and human communication in modern society. Charles H. Kegel's idea is quite representative among critics with this viewpoint. He commented that the novel could be read as Holden Caulfield's "quest for communicability with his fellow men, and the hero's first person after-the-fact narration indicates . . . that he has been successful in his quest" ^[13]. The native critic Luo Shi-ping thinks that Holden tries his best to remove the wall between him and his followers, his society during the three-days-roving. But unfortunately, Holden was not able to remove the wall to gain mutual understanding.

Though considered by most to be a tragedy, *The Catcher in the Rye* is found by some critics to be humorous, witty, and clever. For example, David L. Stevenson thinks that the use of Chaplinesque incidents serves to keep the story hovering in ambivalence between comedy and tragedy, and that whenever a character is nearing the point of no return in a Salinger's piece, it is usually done by route of the comic.

Another step in critiquing *The Catcher in the Rye* is perhaps to look at what has happened at or near the end of the novel. John W. Aldridge wrote that Holden "remains at the end what he was at the beginning—cynical, defiant, and blind" As for the reader, "there is identification but no insight, a sense of pathos but not of tragedy." This may be Salinger's intent, as Holden's world "does not possess sufficient humanity to make the search for humanity dramatically feasible." Other critics, however, have taken a slightly

more optimistic view of the novel's conclusion. For instance, S. N. Behrman remarked that "Holden knows things won't remain the same; they are dissolving, and he cannot reconcile himself to it". Although "all he knows is that he is gasping in the avalanche of disintegration around him," he has got "an exhilaration, an immense relief" in the final Central Park carousel scene, when we know that he will be all right^[14].

Besides the study of the theme and protagonist, there is another important aspect to analyze----the analysis of the language. Just as Lundquist said "Salinger's use of language in *The Catcher in the Rye* is one of the most charming characteristics. We must analyze his language in order to understand his artistic charming in the novel." Some critics approve of his language and others disapprove of his language. Some foreign critics make a comparison between Salinger's language and Mark Twain's. Native critics Qin-Xiaomeng and Zhang-Weirui wrote papers about the language respectively.

Like any other great novels, *The Catcher in the Rye* is also critiqued by the popular means of comparison between the novel and some other literary masterpieces, particularly traditional ones such as Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. John W. Aldridge remarked that both novels are a "study in the spiritual picaresque, the journey that for the young is all one way, from holy innocence to such knowledge as the world offers, from the reality which illusion demands and thinks it sees to the illusion which reality insists, at the point of madness, we settle for" Harvey Breit of *The Atlantic Bookshelf* also wrote: "Holden Caulfield struck me as an urban, a transplanted Huck Finn. He has a colloquialism as marked as Huck's Like Huck, Holden is neither comical nor misanthropic. He is an observer"^[15].

Altogether, there have been a very large amount of criticisms lavished on *The Catcher in the Rye*, expressing various insights into almost all parts and aspects of the novel. But *The Catcher in the Rye* is both a classic and controversial novel. There are as many praises as there are many criticisms. It is very hard and rather disturbing trying to make a different voice heard among so many.

But, in spite of all that, few people have analyzed the theme of the novel in terms of symbolism. Moreover, symbols are very important and obvious in the novel, so it is very necessary for us to pay a close attention to Salinger's symbolism used in the novel. If we appreciate the novel only in terms of the plot, it is nothing but a grow-up story. There is no deep meaning in it. But if we take Salinger's employment of symbolism into consideration, everything in the novel will have a deeper and underlined meaning. The

novel will become a charming palace presenting itself for us to probe, to enjoy and to reflect. Most importantly, to analyze the novel in terms of symbolism is just as riding a horse to run through the grassland. It is so easy and clear for us to see and appreciate all of the scenery of the grassland. Thus by thinking of the employment of symbolism at any time, we can make a full understanding of the novel and we can easily discern Holden's disordered mentality.

Chapter 2 Symbols of Holden's Disordered Mentality

2.1 The Implication of the Full Name of the Protagonist and the Title of the Novel

'Holden Caulfield' is the full name of the protagonist of the novel. The symbolic meaning 'Holden Caulfield' is certain to make a great contribution to his disordered mentality. 'Caul' is a part of this that is sometimes found on a child's head at birth. The caul found on a child's head at birth is used to protect his head from the world because a new-born child is delicate and tender. And 'field' here can be regarded as an area of land used for cultivating crops. 'Caul' and 'field' compose 'Caulfield', the family name of the protagonist. So 'Caulfield' is an area of land used for cultivating crops but the land is covered by a kind of film. It implies the field is delicate and tender. The full name 'Holden Caulfield' can be understood as hold on (Holden) caul field (Caulfield). (Here "hold on" uses the same pronunciation as Holden and "caul field" uses the meaning of Caulfield). Consequently, the 'field' is abnormal and different from others because of the 'caul'. Despite its delicacy, tenderness, and fragility, Holden holds on to it firmly and tightly

Moreover, the full name 'Holden Caulfield' echoes to the title of the novel *The Catcher in the Rye*. 'Field' can be regarded as a kind of land and rye is also a kind of cultivating land, so there are some connections between 'Holden Caulfield' and *The Catcher in the Rye*. In the novel, we can say the field is the rye field. Because the land is different from others, the catcher in the rye is sure to be different from other catchers. On account of the 'caul' of the field, the catcher is not able to observe the field clearly and correctly. In addition, the field is fragile and delicate. It is natural and inevitable for the catcher to make some abnormal ideas. After reading the whole novel, we can discern that to be a catcher in the rye is one of Holden's life goals, so the catcher is none other than Holden.

The symbolic meanings of the protagonist's full name, Holden Caulfield, the title of the novel *The Catcher in the Rye* and the connection between them form Holden's disordered mentality. Furthermore, the disordered mentality is not only formed but is held on firmly by Holden.
held on firmly by Holden.

2.2 Symbols of Clinging to the past

2.2.1 Holden's abnormal style of wearing hat

The red hunting hat which appeared in the novel 24 times is one of the most recognizable symbols in the novel and also in the 20th. It is inseparable from our image of Holden, with good reason: it is a symbol of his uniqueness and individuality. The hat is outlandish, and it shows that Holden is extremely different from everyone around him. Whenever Holden speaks of his red hunting hat, he is always full of appreciation, satisfaction and affection ^[16]. As a very important clue, the symbol of the red hunting hat runs though the whole novel, and it shows Holden's peculiar temperament of his relationships with others. Especially, we should pay more attention to the style of Holden's wearing it. The peak in the front is the normal style of wearing hat, but the style of Holden's wearing hat is contrary to others'. The peak of his hat is not in the front, but in the back when he wears it.

I still had my red hunting hat on, with the peak around to the back and all. I really got a bang out of that hat. (p.27)

I put my red hunting hat on, and turned the peak around to the back, the way I liked it, and then I yelled at the top of my goddam voice, "*Sleep tight, ya morons!*" (p.52)

Holden's abnormal mode of thinking is completely demonstrated in his different style of wearing hat. Generally speaking, the hat peak and the eyes always aim at the same direction---the front, while Holden's hat peak is turned around to the back. The behavior of a person is indispensable to the person's psychology, so the hat peak in the back means his "return" and "look backward". In his daily life, he really clings to the past firmly.

I felt so depressed, you can't imagine. What I did, I started talking, sort of out loud, to Allie. I do that sometimes when I get very depressed. I keep telling him to go home and get his bike and meet me in front of Bobby Fallon's house. So once in a while, now, when I get very depressed, I keep saying to him, "Okay. Go home and get your bike and meet me in front of Bobby's house. Hurry up." It wasn't that I didn't use to take him with me when I went somewhere. I did. But that one day, I didn't. He didn't get sore about it--he never got sore about anything-- but I keep thinking about it anyway, when I get very depressed. (p.98-99)

Just as his peak aims at the back, Holden is not able to get out of his past experience

such as the experience with his dead brother Allie. The past experience always clings to his mind and he can not get rid of it. The past experience is always not a happy but an unhappy one. Allie has died now and he has no chance to make up for it forever, so it is not good for him to recall it all the time. Unfortunately, he really does so, so the past experience has become a heavy load on his mind. Just as he says "I keep thinking about it anyway, when I get very depressed".

Holden himself also said "'this is a people shooting hat,' I said. 'I shoot people in this hat.'"(p.22) Although Holden does not shoot people with his hat in physical actions, he does really shoot people with it in his spiritual actions. In a word, he doesn't cherish what he has but cherish what he has not.

The most suitable description of Holden's state of mind is what his most favorite sister Phoebe said, "You don't like anything that's happening."(p.169) As a matter of fact, Holden can not see any beautiful points in the things and persons that are in close contact with him. However, once the things become going far away from him, he begins to see its good points and also begins to cling to it.

'Then we both asked to be moved. And the funny thing was, I sort of missed him after we moved, because he had a helluva good sense of humor and we had a lot of fun sometimes.' (p.109)

'About all I know is, I sort of miss everybody I told about. Even old Stradlater and Ackley, for instance. I think I even miss that goddam Maurice. It's funny.'(p.214)

It is clear that Holden's life style is the same as his wearing hat style. He always looks backward and clings to the past, which echoes to his hat peak in the back. Consequently, he misses the present and shows no concern about his future, which is also symbolized by his abnormal style of wearing hat. As a matter of fact, Holden's red hunting hat is the refuge for his disordered mentality. The abnormal style of wearing it becomes arms and weapons to defend his disordered mentality and to shoot people spiritually.

2.2.2 Holden's Refuge, the Museum, for His Disordered Mentality

In Holden's real daily life, the most fascinating place for Holden is the museum. As we know, museum is a place in which objects of artistic, cultural, historical or scientific importance and interest are displayed and the objects which represent the past had been observed before they were put in the museum. In a word, the museum itself represents

the past. It is just the museum which represents the past that fascinates Holden most.

It always smelled like it was raining outside, even if it wasn't, and you were in the only nice, dry, cosy place in the world. I loved that damn museum. (p.120)

The best thing, though, in that museum was that everything always stayed right where it was. Nobody'd move.....The only thing that would be different would be you. Not that you'd be so much older or anything. It wouldn't be that, exactly. You'd just be different, that's all. (p.121)

Holden explicitly tells us the symbolic meaning of the museum's displays. They appeal to him because they are frozen and unchanging. He also mentions that he is troubled by the fact that he has changed every time he returns to them. The museum represents the world Holden wishes he could live in, a world where nothing changes, where everything is simple, understandable and recognizable, and where everything has been a history, has been the past. So Holden is terrified by the unpredictable challenges of the world. He has no courage to face the real world in which everything is changing rapidly. The museum becomes the perfect refuge for Holden from the changing world, and also the museum is the spokesman of his disordered mentality of which he clings to the past.

2.2.3 Holden's Attachment to the Childhood Versus His Prejudice against the Adulthood

Reading through the novel, we can see there are only three people that Holden prefers. They are Phoebe, Allie and Jane. Holden enjoys recalling all of the events they experienced together and these also are all his spiritual enjoyment. Phoebe is his ten-year-old sister and Allie is his younger brother who has died when he is very young. So in Holden's memory, Allie is a child forever. Jane never appears before the readers directly and is only recognized by the readers through Holden's recalling of her. But Jane is Holden's imaginary companion in the novel. Whenever he speaks of the three of them, he is satisfied with any one of them.

'You should see her. You never saw a little kid so pretty and smart in your whole life. She's really smart.'(p.67) ---This is how he describes Phoebe

'He was two years younger than I was, but he was about fifty times as intelligent. He was terrifically intelligent. He was also the nicest, in lots of ways. He never got mad at anybody. People with red hair are supposed to get mad very easily, but Allie

never did, and he had very red hair.' (p.38) --- This is how he describes Allie

'After a while, she got up and went in and put on this red and white sweater she had, that knocked me out, and we went to a goddam movie.'(p.79) ---This is how he describes Jane

These are the descriptions of the three people he likes best. It is certain that the ten-year-old Phoebe represents the childhood world which passed is past and no one can live in it again forever; Allie who is dead now is the symbol of the things that has passed and can not get any longer; Jane is his imaginary companion who has never really become his lover but now has become other's lover, and Jane is not his companion any longer. So the three people that Holden likes represent the different things that have passed and he is not able to get again. But, most unfortunately, Holden is unable to discern it and is still stick to his wrong course obstinately.

In contrast, whenever Holden speaks of the people who are older than him, he always does in an unsatisfactory tone.

'He was a senior, and he'd been at Pencey the whole four years and all, but nobody ever called him anything except "Ackley."'(p.19)

He was one of these very, very tall, round-shouldered guys--he was about six four—with lousy teeth. The whole time he roomed next to me, I never even once saw him brush his teeth. They always looked mossy and awful, and he damn near made you sick if you saw him in the dining room with his mouth full of mashed potatoes and peas or something. Besides that, he had a lot of pimples. Not just on his forehead or his chin, like most guys, but all over his whole face. And not only that, he had a terrible personality. He was also sort of a nasty guy. I wasn't too crazy about him, to tell you the truth.' (p.19) ----This is how he describes Ackley

'You remember I said before that Ackley was a slob in his personal habits? Well, so was Stradlater, but in a different way. Stradlater was more of a secret slob. He always looked all right, Stradlater, but for instance, you should've seen the razor he shaved himself with. It was always rusty as hell and full of lather and hairs and crap. He never cleaned it or anything. He always looked good when he was finished fixing himself up, but he was a secret slob anyway, if you knew him the way I did. The reason he fixed himself up to look good was because he was madly in love with himself.'(p.27) ----This is how he describes Stradlater

I was a junior. My roommate was a senior. (p.16)

Strdlater is his roommate, that is to say, both Stradlater and Ackley are senior and they are older than Holden. From the descriptions, it is easy for us to tell Holden hates the person who is older than him, but he is satisfied with the children, like Phoebe, Allie, and the little boy who sung the song 'If a body catch a body coming through the rye', even the child he only met once in the park. The reason for Holden's this state of mind is that Holden himself wants to go back to be a child and he refuses to grow up^[17]. I was sixteen then, and I'm seventeen now, and sometimes I act like I'm about thirteen. And yet I still act sometimes like I was only about twelve. Everybody says that, especially my father. (p.9) Holden fears to grow up and thinks anything of the children's is good while anything of the adults is bad.

She was lying there asleep, with her face sort of on the side of the pillow. She had her mouth way open. It's funny. You take adults, they look lousy when they're asleep and they have their mouths way open, but kids don't. Kids look all right. They can even have spit all over the pillow and they still look all right.

Holden has completely different ideas about the same pose of sleeping between the adults and the children. It is also the clear line between love and hate to different people of different life stage that makes Holden be fascinated by the childhood.

The following diagram shows clearly that Holden likes everything about the children but he dislikes anything about the adults.

Tab. 2-1

Children	Phoebe	represent good in Holden's mind	what Holden loves
	Allie		
	The singing boy		
	The child in the park		
Adults	Ackley	represent bad in Holden's mind	what Holden hates
	Stradlater		
	Maurice		
	Ernie		
	The headmasters		

Holden likes any person who is younger than him while he dislikes any person who is older than him. Holden is eager to return to his childhood. In other words, he only feels confident and hopeful of the children but condemns and despises the adults. He is not willing to face up to the age he is going to step into but indulges in the past he has

stepped out. He lacks the courage and preparation to grasp the things of his own age and his life time. He is only a saint of the past and recollection and a coward of the present and the future.

2.3 Symbols of Missing the Present

“I left all the foils and equipment and stuff on the goddam subway. It wasn’t all my fault. I had to keep getting up to look at this map, so we’d know where to get off. So we got back to Pencey around two-thirty instead of dinnertime. The whole team ostracized me the whole way back on the train. It was pretty funny, in a way.”(p.3)

At the beginning of the novel, Salinger has given us the hint of using symbolism to manifest Holden’s disordered mentality. Games are simplified models of real social life. Most of the rules governing our social lives are highlighted in games, such as the foils and equipment and stuff which are the necessary things for a fencing player. If a player lost the equipment, there would be little possibility for him to win the game. It is also true of the real social life. If a person lost the life equipment like the necessary knowledge, guidance, necessary relaxation, love and reason in his life, he is doomed to fail in the social life. Holden’s behavior of losing the foils and equipment and stuff clearly symbolizes Holden misses opportunities he should have grasped.

2.3.1 Missing Knowledge

Pencey is Holden’s fourth school and he has already failed out of three others. Moreover, even at Pencey, he has failed four out of five of his classes and has received a notice that he is being expelled, while he is not scheduled to return home to Manhattan until Wednesday. So Holden is supposed to leave school till that day, but he leaves school on Saturday night, which proves that he escapes school once again.

But all of a sudden, I changed my mind. All of a sudden, I decided what I’d really do, I’d get the hell out of Pencey--right that same night and all. I mean not wait till Wednesday or anything. (p.51)

Holden escapes from Pencey. As we know Pencey is a famous school in everyone’s eyes except for in Holden’s. So Holden fails to get the necessary knowledge once again in his life the minute that he leaves the school Pencey.

They gave me frequent warning to start applying myself--especially around midterms, when my parents came up for a conference with old Thurmer--but I didn’t do

it. (p.4)

Holden's family is rich enough to offer him the opportunity to study in the famous school and his father also has the ability to help him from one school to another, but the critical problem is Holden himself has no ability to study well and make full use of the chance that present before him. The only thing he can do is to escape from one school to another. He misses the valuable time and the suitable place to acquire knowledge.

2.3.2 Missing Guidance

Teachers and parents are the two most important kinds of guides in a person's life. Whenever we are in a trouble, we can ask for help from our parents or teachers. They are certain to give us the most useful and reasonable suggestions which can benefit us a lot. But let us see what Holden has done to his teachers and parents.

I'm the most terrific liar you ever saw in your life.....It's terrible. So when I told old Spencer I had to go to the gym and get my equipment and stuff, which was a sheer lie. I don't even keep my goddam equipment in the gym. (p.16)

Holden escapes from Spenser's house when Mr. Spenser tries his best to persuade Holden to pay some attention to his own study and his own future. Unfortunately, Holden does not think it beneficial for him to stay there for more than one minute, so he escapes from Spenser's house as quickly as he can. Obviously, he misses the guidance from an old teacher.

Holden not only escapes from Spenser but he even escapes from Mr. Antolini who is his most respectful teacher.

"I have to go, anyway," I said--boy, was I nervous! I started putting on my damn pants in the dark. (p.192)

He kept walking right behind me when I went to the front door, and when I rang the elevator bell he stayed in the damn doorway. All he said was that business about my being a "very, very strange boy" again. Strange, my ass. Then he waited in the doorway and all till the goddam elevator came. I never waited so long for an elevator in my whole goddam life. I swear. (p.193)

Holden acknowledges Antolini is smart and he respects him very much. Indeed Antolini is a very excellent teacher. "I have a feeling that you're riding for some kind of a terrible, terrible fall. But I don't honestly know what kind....." (p.186) "The whole arrangement's designed for men who, at some time or other in their lives, were looking

for something their own environment couldn't supply them with. Or they thought their own environment couldn't supply them with. So they gave up looking. They gave it up before they ever really even got started.”(p.187)What Antolini says to Holden is right and reasonable, but Holden fails to understand Antolini correctly, so he misses the knowledge and guidance once again.

Home is always the forever warmest port for a normal person and the parents are the most reliable supporters in our daily life. Whenever we are hurt and whatever difficulties we meet, parents will be the giant tree for us to lean on. However, there is no communication between Holden and his parents. As a matter of fact, there is chance for Holden to ask for help from his parents, but he misses the chance once again.

Then I grabbed my shoes and got in the closet and shut the door. Boy, my heart was beating like a bastard. (p.177)

In order to avoid being seen by his parents, Holden hides in a closet. Consequently, he is hidden from the support and guidance from his parents.

2.3.3 Missing Necessary Relaxation

In order to comb his own disordered mentality, it is really necessary for Holden to have some relaxation. Relaxation is beneficial to him to put his disordered mind back to order. In fact, he even misses the chance to relax.

"I was just leaving," I told her. "I have to meet somebody." You could tell she was just trying to get in good with me. So that I'd tell old D.B. about it. (p.87)

After I'd told her I had to meet somebody, I didn't have any goddam choice except to leave. I couldn't even stick around to hear old Ernie play something halfway decent. But I certainly wasn't going to sit down at a table with old Lillian. (p.87)

Holden takes a taxi to the Ernie's from the hotel, but wholly because he is not willing to sit down at a table with old Lillian, he left there with an excuse. So at last he escapes the Ernie's. It means Holden fails to get the necessary relaxation to clear and correct his wrong thoughts.

2.3.4 Missing Love

Jane is Holden's imaginary companion but she never appears before readers directly. Whenever Jane is mentioned, 'she' is used. Although she never appears to the reader directly, she is a very important character in the novel. Just because she never meets the

reader directly and never meets Holden during Holden's roving in New York, she can symbolize a deep meaning in the novel and also give us a chance to understand Holden's disordered mentality totally, clearly and deeply.

"Where is she?" I asked him. "I oughta go down and say hello to her or something. Where is she? In the Annex?"

"Yeah."(p.31)

"I oughta go down and at least say hello to her," I said.

"Why don'tcha?"

"I will, in a minute."(p.32)

Jane Gallagher. Jesus . . . I couldn't get her off my mind. I really couldn't. "I oughta go down and say hello to her, at least."

"Why the hell don'tcha, instead of keep saying it?" Stradlater said.

I walked over to the window, but you couldn't see out of it, it was so steamy from all the heat in the can... "I'm not in the mood right now," I said. I wasn't, either. You have to be in the mood for those things. "(p.33)

It is three times that Holden said: "I oughta go down and say hello to her." But Holden has only words but no action. The reason why Holden does not go to see Jane is not because Stradlater does not want him to go but because he is not in the mood. So Holden misses the best chance to see Jane, although Jane is just in the annex. From then on, just like what Holden says: "I couldn't get her off my mind. I really couldn't" (p.32) Jane becomes Holden's imaginary companion during his three days roving in New York.

Just because Holden misses the best chance to see Jane and later he misses several chances to see Jane later. At last, Jane becomes Holden's forever imaginary companion.

① Then I thought of giving Jane Gallagher's mother a buzz, and find out when Jane's vacation started, but I didn't feel like it. Besides, it was pretty late to call up. Then I thought of calling this girl I used to go around with quite frequently, Sally Hayes. (p.59)

② I started toying with the idea, while I kept standing there, of giving old Jane a buzz.....The only reason I didn't do it was because I wasn't in the mood. If you're not in the mood, you can't do that stuff right. (p.63)

③I thought of giving old Jane a buzz, to see if she was home yet and all, but I wasn't in the mood. What I did do, I gave old Sally Hayes a buzz. (p.105)

④I figured maybe I'd give old Jane a buzz and see if she was home for vacation yet. So I went in a phone booth and called her up. The only trouble was, her mother answered the phone, so I had to hang up. (p.116) (Jane's mother answered the telephone, so Holden hanged it up.)

⑤I went in a phone booth. I thought maybe I might give old Jane another buzz and see if she was home yet..... Anyway, I gave old Jane a buzz again, but her phone didn't answer, so I had to hang up. (p.135-136)

⑥Finally what I felt like, I felt like giving old Jane a buzz and see if she was home yet.....But when I got inside this phone booth, I wasn't much in the mood any more to give old Jane a buzz. I was too drunk, I guess. So what I did, I gave old Sally Hayes a buzz. (p.150)

⑦I thought maybe I might stop in a phone booth and give old Jane Gallagher a buzz before I started bumming my way west, but I wasn't in the mood.(p.202)

It is seven times that Holden thinks of giving Jane a buzz. Most importantly, the thought of giving Jane a call always springs to Holden's mind in the novel. Of the seven times of Holden's thought of calling Jane, there are only two times he really picks up the phone to call Jane. Unfortunately, one of the only two is answered by Jane's mother, so he hangs it up without saying one word and the other is not answered. The other five times he only thinks of calling Jane but fails to put it into action. Just as Behrman wrote: "It is characteristic of Holden that although he is crazy about Jane, always thinking of her, always wanting to call her up, he never does call her up. He is always about to but doesn't, because he's never 'in the mood' ". Through Holden's all reaction to Jane, it is not difficult for us to tell that Holden is a saint of thinking and speaking but a coward of action. So he loses every chance to meet Jane, his imaginary companion.

At the end of the novel, Holden's entering the psychoanalytic hospital is also a kind of escape, a total escape. It symbolizes he has escaped from the social life, which is a complex of different relationships with people around us and a complex of various events happening at any time. Through analyzing the above, it is easy for us to get a full impression on Holden. Wherever he goes and whatever he does, he is destined to escape and miss the useful knowledge, guidance, relaxation and love.

2.4 Symbols of Indulging in His Illusive Future

2.4.1 Disorientation in His Real Life

"Life is a game, boy. Life is a game that one plays according to the rules."

"Yes, sir. I know it is. I know it."

Game, my ass. Some game. If you get on the side where all the hot-shots are, then it's a game, all right--I'll admit that. But if you get on the other side, where there aren't any hot-shots, then what's a game about it? Nothing. No game. (p.80)

This quotation is from Holden's conversation with Spenser in Chapter 2. His former teacher is needling him about his failures at Pencey; at this point, he lectures Holden about the importance of playing by the rules. The conversation succinctly illuminates key aspects of Holden's character. We see he clearly identifies with those on the "other side" of the game, he feels depressed and victimized, as though the world is against him. At this point in the novel, Holden's sense of disadvantage and corresponding bitterness seem somewhat strange and unbelievable, given his circumstances: he's clearly a rich boy from a privileged New York family. As the book progresses, however, we learn that Holden has built a negative psychological armor around himself to protect himself to live in his own disordered mentality. In effect, confidence is believed to be the first secret of success. If you want to succeed in doing anything, you must have confidence in your abilities. Self-confidence gives you light when you are in the dark and encouragement when you are dismayed. It is especially important for young people to build up self-confidence. As the proverb goes, "Confidence is the first step on the road to success." But at the beginning of the novel, the author portrays a Holden who has no confidence in "on the other side". It is clear that Holden lacks the necessary confidence in his life. If one lacks confidence in oneself, there is little possibility that he may achieve anything, especially when he is faced with difficulties. Unfortunately, Holden has a negative attitude towards life while learning to acquire a proper attitude towards life is essential for a person to succeed in doing anything. In a word, if Holden wants to achieve anything in his life, he has to learn to acquire a positive but not a negative attitude towards life. That's why Holden does not make any progress but becomes more dismayed as the book progresses.

I'm so damn absent-minded, I gave the driver my regular address, just out of habit and all--I mean I completely forgot I was going to shack up in a hotel for a couple of days and not go home till vacation started. I didn't think of it till we were halfway through the park. Then I said, "Hey, do you mind turning around when you get a chance? I gave you the wrong address. I want to go back downtown."

The driver was sort of a wise guy. "I can't turn around here, Mac. This here's a one-way.

I'll have to go all the way to Ninedieth Street now."(p.60)

As Holden describes himself as 'so absent-minded', indeed, he is such. He tells the taxi-driver the completely wrong direction just because of his so-called 'out of habit'. On account of his mistake, he has to waste the unnecessary time and money for the extra road, because 'This here's a one-way'. In his daily life, Holden is so absent-minded as to direct the right road. It is easy for us to imagine how he directs his life road. Of course, he has the same absent-minded attitude. As a matter of fact, the life road is also a one-way. Once the time passed it is past, and it can not come back again, but Holden is not sober enough to consider his life road seriously.

It seems that Holden cares about nothing as curious as the ducks in the lagoon. Whenever there is a chance, he will ask other people where the ducks will go when winter comes. Even when Mr. Spenser is telling him some life principles, the ducks even occur to him again. I was wondering where the ducks went when the lagoon got all icy and frozen over. I wondered if some guy came in a truck and took them away to a zoo or something. Or if they just flew away. (p.13) But no matter how he tries his best to know the answer, he finally fails. Just as he does not know where the ducks will go when the winter comes, he also does not know where he will go in his real life. In his unconsciousness, he is just the ducks for whom there is no place to go.

2.4.2 Fascination for His Illusive Future

There are really some goals in Holden's life and there are really some places he wants to go but all of these are his dream which is fabricate, fragile and free to shatter. It is necessary for people to have goals in his life, no matter whether it is a short-term, medium-term or long-term goals which can be attained sooner or later. On the contrary, if a person's goals are too idealistic to be attained in the reality, the goals will not be goals, but mirages and illusions that can not be fulfilled forever. Unfortunately, Holden is very expert at illusions.

"You don't like anything that's happening."(p.169)

Phoebe's words lay bare Holden's state of mind with one mark.

"You can't even think of one thing."

"Yes, I can. Yes, I can."

"Well, do it, then."

"I like Allie," I said. "And I like doing what I'm doing right now. Sitting here with you,

and talking, and thinking about stuff, and--"

"Allie's dead--You always say that! If somebody's dead and everything, and in Heaven, then it isn't really--"(p.171)

Phoebe's words lay bare Holden's state of mind with one mark. He does not like anything that is happening around him and anything that his surroundings can afford him, but he is only interested in the things that have been past.

"You know that song 'If a body catch a body comin' through the rye'? I'd like--"

"It's 'If a body meet a body coming through the rye!'" old Phoebe said. "It's a poem. By Robert Burns."

I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all.

Even though Holden has a goal in his life, it is really an unpractical one. He knows less about the basis of his goal than Phoebe. He even mishears 'meet' as 'catch', and then forms his wrong life goal to be a catcher in the rye.

The other goal in his life is to be a dumb living in the cabin in the west. Finally, what I decided I'd do, I decided I'd go away..... I got excited as hell thinking about it. I really did. I knew the part about pretending I was a deaf-mute was crazy, but I liked thinking about it anyway. But I really decided to go out West and all. (p.198-199)

The only two things he wants to do in his life are to be a catcher or to be a deaf-mute living in a cabin in the west. At the end of the novel, Holden's entrance into the psychiatric hospital proves both his great goals turns out to be illusions.

It is easy for us to see Holden hates schools, teachers, classmates, study, stars, films, and so on. In a word, he hates everything that around him but totally indulges in his past memory and his illusive fantasy

2.5 Symbols of the Disordered Language

2.5.1 The Inversion of Word Order

There are some sentences in which the words do not appear in its normal way according to the grammar. Here are some examples to illustrate this phenomenon.

a. "I paid her already, I gave her five bucks. Ask her," I said. Boy, was my voice shaking. (p.101)

b. He looked like he was very, very tired or very, very bored. God, was I scared. (p.102)

d. Boy, was it dark. (p.154)

e. Boy, *did it* scare me. (p.198)

As the famous psychologist, Freud Sigmund, stated in his psychoanalysis that even if a slip of the tongue or a slip of the pen represents a person's unconscious intention ^[18]. "I refer to the errors which an individual commits-as for example, errors of speech in which he wishes to say something and uses the wrong word; or those which happen to him in writing, and which he may or may not notice; or the case of misreading, in which one reads in the print or writing something different from what is actually there ^[19]." In this paragraph, Freud classified errors into 3 categories: Errors of speech (slips of the tongue), of writing, of reading (misreading), of hearing; Errors based on temporary forgetfulness; Errors of laying things (mislaying), losing things. According to Freud, error is meaningful ^[20]. It is true of Holden's language. Here, in the above examples, 'was' and 'my voice'; 'was' and 'I'; 'was' and 'it'; 'did' and 'it' are disordered respectively. This is a convincing argument for Holden's disordered mentality because language is a good reflection of a person's thinking ^[21]. Holden's mode of thinking is clearly illuminated in his mode of speaking.

2.5.2 The Misuse of Words

As to Holden's choice of words, we will find it very strange, because he always uses a commendatory word to modify a bad situation, whereas, he uses a derogatory term to describe a good situation. Let us make 'terrific' and 'goddam' as examples to illustrate his strange mode of choosing words.

Terrific

a. All of a sudden then, I wanted to get the hell out of the room. I could feel a terrific lecture coming on. (p.10)

b. Then all of a sudden this guy sitting in the row in front of me, Edgar Marsalla, laid this terrific fart. It was a very crude thing to do, in chapel and all, but it was also quite amusing. (p.17)

c. All I felt was this terrific punch in my stomach. (p.103)

Goddam

a. I'm not going to tell you my whole goddam autobiography or anything. (p.1)

b. I was the goddam manager of the fencing team. (p.3)

c. I stood up when I ordered them so they could see how tall I was and all and not think I was a goddam minor. (p.142)

From the examples we can see the way of Holden's abnormality in his choosing of words. Moreover, it is 67 times that the phrase 'all of a sudden' appears in the novel such as "I felt sorry as hell for him, all of a sudden"; (p.15) "Then a funny thing happened. When I got to the museum, all of a sudden I wouldn't have gone inside for a million bucks". (p.122) 'All of a sudden' means something happens unexpectedly, but Holden prefers to use it frequently. Holden's language reveals many of his character traits. He does anything on a whim, or under an "all of a sudden" situation. One late Saturday night, for example, four days before the beginning of the school vacation, Holden is alone, bored and restless, wondering what to do. Then "All of a sudden I decided what I'd really do, I'd get the hell out of Pencey---right that same night and all. I mean not wait till Wednesday or anything." So he decides to leave Pencey and travels to New York. He decides that, once in New York, he will stay in a cheap motel until Wednesday, when is the due time for him to return home. His plan shows the reader how very impetuous he is. He is even somewhat unrealistic, thinking that he has a foolproof plan, even though the extent of his plans are to "take a room in a hotel---some very inexpensive hotel and all---and just take it easy till Wednesday^[22]" (p.55). It fully demonstrates Holden's thinking lacks logic and reason. He does everything on impulse. In fact, language is the mirror of thinking^[23]. Through observing a person's language, we can discern what he is thinking. All in all, the disordered words, the abnormal choice of words and the peculiar phrase that Holden uses clearly symbolize his abnormal mode of thinking.

Additionally, cold weather has a great effect on how our minds and our bodies work. That is why there are so many expressions about the word 'cold' such as cold-blooded, a cold fish, get the cold feet, give someone the cold shoulder, out in the cold, etc. Many phrases about 'cold' are connected with bad aspects. Regarding this, we can understand Holden's disordered mentality more easily and deeply, because Holden is exposed to a cold weather. Anyway, it was December and all, and it was cold as a witch's teat, especially on top of that stupid hill. I only had on my reversible and no gloves or anything. The week before that, somebody'd stolen my camel's-hair coat right out of my room, with my fur-lined gloves right in the pocket and all.(p.4) Holden is not only exposed to a cold weather but has no warm clothes to wear for his coat and gloves have been stolen. So he is really out in the cold. In fact, the cold weather does affect his minds

seriously and force him to form his disordered mentality.

Chapter 3 Symbols of the Doom of Holden's Disordered Mentality

3.1 Invalidity of 'The Catcher in the Rye'

If the two premises are not true, the inference is not valid. Deductive argumentation is usually cast in the form of a logical syllogism. At its simplest a syllogism contains two premises and an inference that necessarily follows from them. For example:

All hatters are mad.

X is a hatter.

Therefore X is mad.

If the major premise 'a' and the minor premise 'b' are true, the inference, or conclusion 'c' has got to be true, for the inference is logically valid. Logical validity, however, is not the same thing as empirical truth. Since all hatters are not mad, the factual truth of the conclusion about X is open to question. Syllogistic reasoning, in short, is no sounder than the premises upon which it rests. The writer arguing logically must begin from premises not easily denied by his opponents ^[24].

"You know that song 'If a body catch a body comin' through the rye'? I'd like--"
"It's 'If a body meet a body coming through the rye!'" old Phoebe said. "It's a poem. By Robert Burns."

"I know it's a poem by Robert Burns."

She was right, though. It is "If a body meet a body coming through the rye." I didn't know it then I mean if they're running and they don't look where they're going I have to come out from somewhere and catch them. That's all I'd do all day. I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all. I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be. I know it's crazy."(p.173)

From the conversation between Phoebe and Holden, we can also make a logical syllogism about Holden's holy ambition.

If a body catch a body comin' through the rye'

Many kids playing some games in the field of rye near a cliff.

Holden will become the catcher in the rye.

'*The Catcher in the Rye*', as the book's title, this symbol merits close inspection. It first appears in chapter 16, when a kid Holden admires for walking in the street rather than on the sidewalks singing the Robert Burns song "Comin' Thro' the Rye." In chapter 22, when Phoebe asks Holden what he wants to do with his life, he replies with his image, from the song, of a "catcher in the rye." Holden imagines a field of rye perched high on cliff, full of children romping and playing. He says he would like to protect the children from falling off the edge of the cliff by "catching" them if they were on the verge of tumbling over. As Phoebe points out, Holden has misheard the lyric. He thinks the line is "If a body catch a body comin' through the rye," but the line is "If a body meet a body, coming through the rye."

[First Setting]

Comin thro' the rye, poor body,

Comin thro' the rye,
a' She draigl't a' her petticoatie

Comin thro' the rye.

[Second Setting]

Gin a body meet a body, comin frae the town,

Gin a body kiss a body, need a body gloom; She draigl't
Ilka Jenny has her Jockey, ne'er a ane hae I,

But a' the lads they loe me, and what the waur am ^[25]

The song "comin' thro' the Rye" asks if it is wrong for two people to have a romantic encounter out in the fields, away from the public eye, even if they don't plan to have a commitment to one another. It is highly ironic that the word "meet" refers to an encounter that leads to recreational sex, because the word that Holden substitutes "catch" takes on the exact opposite meaning in his mind. So the major premise "If a body catch a body comin' through the rye" of the syllogism is wrong first, the inference "Holden will become the catcher in the rye" has not got to be true, for the inference is logically invalid.

As the source of the title of the novel is invalid, it is reasonable for us to doubt the reasonableness of the protagonist, the protagonist's speaking, actions, and thoughts.

3.2 Holden's Ineffective Safeguard---the Red Hat

3.2.1 Symbol of Inability to resist the Natural Law

The red hat is inseparable from our image of Holden because it is a symbol of his uniqueness and individuality. The hat is outlandish, and it shows that Holden is extremely different from everyone around him.

Just as Holden himself says "this is a people shooting hat,' I said. I shoot people in

this hat.”(p.22)Although Holden does not shoot people with his hat in physical actions, he does really shoot people with his hat in spiritual actions such as his prejudice against adults, his indifference to his real life. Whenever he speaks of his red hat, he is full of satisfaction, appreciation and affection. I still had my red hunting hat on, with the peak around to the back and all. I really got a bang out of that hat. (p.27) Holden’s red hunting hat has become the refuge of his disordered mentality. But the hat is only Holden’s ideal refuge. It is not competent enough to protect him against anything.

“Boy, I was still shivering like a bastard, and the back of my hair, even though I had my hunting hat on, was sort of full of little hunks of ice. That worried me. I thought probably I’d get pneumonia and die.”(p.154)

“My hunting hat really gave me quite a lot of protection, in a way; but I got soaked anyway. I didn’t care, though. I felt so damn happy all of sudden, the way old Phoebe kept going around and around. I was damn near bawling, I felt so damn happy, if you want to know the truth. I don’t know why.”(p.213)

“Cold” “ice” and “rain” are natural phenomena, so the human being can not change it and “Cold” “ice” and “rain” also belong to the natural law. People can not change the natural law either. No matter who breaks the natural law, he will get punished by the natural law. People can only make full use of the natural phenomena and the natural law. So the red hunting hat which is both the typical symbol of Holden’s disordered mentality and the symbol of the safeguard of his disordered mentality becomes helpless, weak and incompetent in the face of the natural phenomena.

3.2.2 Symbol of Wrong Conceptions

To have a cool head is always necessary for a person to succeed in doing anything. Unfortunately, some persons such as Holden are always hot-headed, so there is often something wrong in his decisions.

No matter it is hot or it is cold, Holden wears his hat all the time.

It was pretty nice to get back to my room and the heat was on in our room, for a change. It felt sort of cosy. I took off my coat and my tie and unbuttoned my shirt collar; and then I put on this hat that I’d bought in New York that morning. (p.17)

I still had my red hunting hat on, with the peak around to the back and all. I really got a bang out of that hat. (p.27)

I walked over to the window, but you couldn’t see out of it, it was so steamy from

all the heat in the can. (p.33)

It is easy for us to see neither in the room nor in the can that it is necessary for Holden to wear his hat, while he wears it even though it is very warm. Let us imagine what Holden feels wearing a hat in a warm place. It can only make him feel terribly upset and perturbed. So he makes a lot of wrong decisions. Although in a cold situation it is necessary to wear the hat, the hat can do nothing in cold weather. The hat only drives Holden to think of some absurd ideas all the time.

Boy, I was still shivering like a bastard, and the back of my hair, even though I had my hunting hat on, was sort of full of little hunks of ice. That worried me. I thought probably I'd get pneumonia and die.”(p.154)

Just as shackles shackle one's actions, the hat of Holden shackles his thinking. The hat is really a magic helmet that prevents any reasonable ideas coming from his mind. So Holden's wrong conceptions are indispensable to his hat.

3.3 Symbols of Surroundings

The description of surroundings is an indispensable part in each novel. A novel usually makes full description of the characters by means of describing the characters' actions, speeches and thoughts. In this way, the theme of the novel will be clearly demonstrated and fully understood by the readers. However, the characterization is inseparable from the description of the surroundings, because the characters always live in a certain surrounding. Moreover, the characters are always connected with the surroundings where he or she lives. At the same time, in order to depict the character vividly and lively the writer is certain to locate the character in a particular situation according to what he really wants to express through the character. It is easy for us to make a conclusion that the author has to describe the surroundings intentionally and purposely in order to invent convincing characters before the readers. So the description of the surrounding in the novel can give the readers a critical clue to understanding the characters and the novel effectively. It is certainly true of the description of the surroundings that the protagonist Holden lives in. Salinger intentionally exposes Holden to a peculiar situation which is fully used to help demonstrate his disordered mentality. Through the following analysis, we can get a more logical and clearer understanding and appreciation on Holden's disordered mentality.

3.3.1 Holden's Fragile Beautiful Snow World

“While he was doing it, I went over to my window and opened it and packed a snowball with my bare hands. The snow was very good for packing. I didn't throw it at anything, though. I started to throw it. At a car that was parked across the street. But I changed my mind. The car looked so nice and white. Then I started to throw it at a hydrant, but that looked too nice and white, too. Finally I didn't throw it at anything. All I did was close the window” (p.36)

From the description, we can see the snow world is the wonderful world in Holden's heart. Snow is white and pure in the appearance, but, as a matter of fact, snow is the frozen vapor which fall down the ground again when the temperature changes. Although snow is white, pure and beautiful in the appearance, it is vulnerable to damage, easy to disappear. Thus it symbolizes Holden's wonderful world is just like a flyaway, so the wonderful world in Holden's heart is fragile to break. The first reason is snow is not pure in itself because there are a lot of dust attaches to the vapor during its falling and it only has the pure appearance. The second reason is snow is vulnerable. Any other things can destroy its superficial purity and beauty. Considering his wonderful world is exposed to so many social people and so many natural phenomena, it is clearly shown that Holden's wonderful world in his heart is easily to collapse. Wherever there are people there are steps on the snow, so the purity of the snow will be spoiled. On the other hand, other natural phenomenon can also destroy the purity of the snow. For example, at the end of the novel, it begins to rain. We can imagine what the world would be if rain falls on the snow.

So at the beginning of the novel the snow world symbolizes Holden's wonderful world is doomed to collapse. At the end of the novel the falling rain proved the result.

“Boy, it began to rain like a bastard. In buckets, I swear to God. All the parents and mothers and everybody went over and stood right under the roof of the carrousel, so they wouldn't get soaked to the skin or anything, but I stuck around on the bench for quite a while. I got pretty soaking wet, especially my neck and my pants. My hunting hat really gave me quite a lot of protection, in a way; but I got soaked anyway.”(p.212)

Even if there is no rain, it is very difficult for snow to maintain its purity and beauty; what if there is rain, even heavy rain? It is certain that the beautiful snow world will completely disappear and there is only ugly mud left. The doomed collapse of Holden's beautiful snow world manifests the doom of his disordered mentality.

3.3.2 Absence of the Sun

Sun is always considered as a magic power that illuminates all things. If there is no sun, there are no creatures. Only by the presence of sun can the plants make the photosynthesis which maintains the life of the plants; can the animals run out of their caves to look for food or play with each other; can people keep a clear head to do things reasonably. In a word, the presence of sun is critical important to all the things in the world.

3.3.2.1 Failure to Live in the Sun

a. It was that kind of a crazy afternoon, terrifically cold, and no sun out or anything, and you felt like you were disappearing every time you crossed a road. (p.5)

b. It was Sunday It wasn't as cold as it was the day before, but the sun still wasn't out, and it wasn't too nice for walking. (p.115)

c. It was lousy in the park. It wasn't too cold, but the sun still wasn't out. (p.118)

d. (on Monday) It sort of looked like it was going to rain, but I went for this walk anyway. For one thing, I figured I ought to get some breakfast. (p.196)

From the quotations we know that during the three days of Holden' roving in the New York there are no sun at all. As we know, only if there is sun, there is life and lively life. Indeed, sun is the symbol of creative energy, law in nature, consciousness, thinking, enlightenment, wisdom, and spiritual vision^[26]. However, Holden is intentionally placed in such weather where there is no sun but snow and rain to accompany his two nights and one and half day's vagrant life.

In terms of the symbolic meaning, because there is no sun, there is no creative energy and no wisdom, which echoes Holden's disordered mentality: holding on the past, missing the present and gloomy future doomed to break.

3.3.2.2 Failure in Grasping the Prostitute, Sunny

Sunny is the name of the prostitute that Holden first asks for but later he refuses to make love with her. In terms of word-building, sun is the root of sunny. The meaning of sunny is also closely connected to sun. Only if there is sun, there is sunny life, lively life and happy life, and the plants can absorb the necessary nutrition by means of the appearance of sun. So we can make a conclusion that the author deliberately makes the prostitute called Sunny. The name 'Sunny' also has its symbolic meaning connecting with sun.

I said. "I don't feel very much like myself tonight. I've had a rough night. Honest to

God. I'll pay you and all, but do you mind very much if we don't do it? Do you mind very much?" The trouble was, I just didn't want to do it. I felt more depressed than sexy, if you want to know the truth. (p.96)

Holden has been trying to make love with some girls, but he never succeeds because of the girls' crying of 'stop'. So he is eager to do it successfully, this time with Sunny, with no 'stop' but 'volunteer'. However, Holden makes an excuse to avoid doing the thing. Thus, he misses Sunny. To Holden, Sunny is really a kind of light. To lose his virgin is Holden's long desire. As we know, sexual intercourse is a natural phenomenon and it is necessary both in psychology and biology in an adult's life. In fact, Sunny is a prostitute, she is supposed to have rich experience in doing this, so she is expected to make Holden feel enjoyable and pleasant. By doing this, Holden is sure to find something pleasurable in the adulthood which he has been being unwilling to step into and has no good opinion about it. But, unfortunately, he misses Sunny; it means he misses the light that presents itself to him. He also misses the chance to discern something pleasant in the adult's life.

From the analysis, we can know the sun, here means Sunny, presents itself before him. He is still fail to grasp it. What if there was no sun at all?! Indeed, the sun which symbolizes wisdom, thinking and enlightenment is completely absent in Holden's roving, so Holden is sure to get lost on his life road and is not able to get to the normal life orbit.

3.3.3 Red and Black---Symbols of Disorder

The two colors, red and black (darkness) run through the whole novel and they make the whole novel wears a kind of magical clothes. Furthermore, the two colors echo the protagonist's psychology all the time. It is universally accepted that red is a symbol of violent, passion and disorder and black or darkness means chaos, death, evil and melancholy^[27]. The following diagram can give us a clear idea of how frequently the two colors appear in the novel.

Tab. 3-1

Colors		times	total times
Red	red	22	44
	blood	13	
	bleeding	4	
	bleed	5	
Black	dark	26	33
	black	7	

Through the diagram we can clearly see it is 44 times that red appears in the novel and 33 times that black appears. In other words, we can say Holden is always surrounded by the two colors: red and black, that is to say, his surroundings are made up of red and black. Taking the symbolic meanings of the two colors into consideration, it is absolutely logical for us to say that Holden's life is doomed to be disordered. Because Holden's outer world is occupied by red and black, disorder and chaos, it is not difficult for us to understand his inner world. As a result, his inner world is the same as his outer world. And his inner world is also in disorder, so his disordered mentality is doomed to form.

Furthermore, red can symbolize sacrifice and black can symbolize melancholy, so it is inevitable for Holden's disordered mentality to get collapsed.

3.3.3.1 Red

As we know, Holden's outer world is surrounded by red and black, so red and black is closely connected with Holden and his life. In the novel, almost all the things that closely connected with Holden are described as red. Firstly, Holden's closest companion, the red hunting hat, which appears in the novel 24 times, is almost with him. Whenever Holden speaks of the red hunting hat, he is always full of appreciation, satisfaction and affection. He likes wearing it to read his favorite books. He also likes showing it off in front of his friends and classmates and he even give it to his most affectionate sister Phoebe. Secondly, there are only two people, who are the great favorites of Holden. One is Holden's ten-year-old sister Phoebe and the other is Holden's little brother Allie who was dead of leukemia when he was very young.

He was also the nicest, in lots of ways. He never got mad at anybody. People with red hair are supposed to get mad very easily, but Allie never did, and he had very red hair. I'll tell you what kind of red hair he had. (p.38)

You should see her. You never saw a little kid so pretty and smart in your whole life. She's really smart. I mean she's had all A's ever since she started school. As a matter of fact, I'm the only dumb one in the family But you ought to see old Phoebe. She has this sort of red hair, a little bit like Allie's was, that's very short in the summertime. (p.67)

Through the descriptions of Allie and Phoebe, we can see Holden's only two favorite persons have red hair. Because the two people are always in his mind, of course

the color of red is indispensable to the two persons and never absent in Holden's mind.

Thirdly, Jane, who never really appears in the novel, but she is a very important character. Although she is not beautiful, she is Holden's forever spiritual lover. Just because she wore a red and white sweater several years ago, Holden was fascinated by her forever. After a while, she got up and went in and put on this red and white sweater she had, that knocked me out, and we went to a goddam movie. (p.79) so even Holden's imaginary companion is connected with the red color.

Fourthly, even the key to the hotel room is connected with red. I looked at the red thing with my number on it; on my key. (p.91) here the red color echoes Holden's failure in doing the thing with Sunny.

Finally, blood which is also red frequently appears in the novel. It is proved that red is not only a color that the author chose by accident but the author chose it for special purpose. Clearly, it is an important symbol to hint 'disorder', 'chaoses and 'melancholy'. It has paved the way for Holden's disordered mentality to step into failure.

3.3.3.2 Black or Darkness

At the beginning of the novel, the author has told us what situation Holden is in.

That way, I couldn't see a goddam thing. "I think I'm going blind," I said in this very hoarse voice. "Mother darling, everything's getting so dark in here."

"Mother darling, give me your hand, Why won't you give me your hand?"(p.21)

Here, the author shows clearly Holden's inner world to readers by means of Holden's horsing around with Ackley. "That way, I couldn't see a goddam thing." "Mother darling, everything's getting so dark in here." "Mother darling, give me your hand, Why won't you give me your hand?" (p.21) It seems that Holden is horsing around with Ackley, but in fact, it reflects Holden's state of mind at that time. He gets lost in his life and he is not able to tell what is right and what is wrong.

As a matter of fact, all the accidents of the whole novel happen in two nights and one and a half day. Even the whole day, Holden gets up at ten in the morning. I DIDN'T SLEEP too long, because I think it was only around ten o'clock when I woke up. (p.105) Moreover, even in the day time, the sun is absent and there is no sunshine but gloom or rain or snow. So almost all the novel happens in the dark and almost all Holden's actions happens in the dark. Furthermore let us see where Holden has been in the two nights and one and half days. It is Edmont Hotel, the night club, the lavender Room, Ernie's (also a

night club), theater, Wicker Bar..... No one of these places was well-lighted, because if it were well-lighted, it would not be called a night club, theater or bar. In a word, wherever Holden goes, there is full darkness. Dark is certain to symbolize chaos, evil, and melancholy. Most importantly, the two colors, red and black run through the whole novel which provides enough proof for Holden's disordered mentality doomed to collapse.

As we know, it is in December that all the events happened. December is the last month of the year, which can symbolize the end of Holden's disordered mentality. As a matter of fact, Holden's coming into the psychoanalytic hospital means all his so-called ambitious goals came to an end. Furthermore, the title of *The Catcher in the Rye*, the hat, the surroundings Holden lived in constitute enough arguments for the doom of Holden's disordered mentality.

Chapter 4 Conclusion---Reflections on Holden's Disordered Mentality

The terminal goal of a piece of work is to gain appreciations of as many readers as possible. When we read a piece of unfamiliar foreign work or a traditional literary work, we are often exposed to a state of ambiguity. There is no other reason but we do not fully understand the background of the novel and the life of the author. Each work is just the comprehensive expression of the author's models of thinking, style of living and the level of his satisfaction with the society. The more we know about the background and the life of the author, the better we can understand his work. According to this, it is necessary and important for us to analyze the following aspects to demonstrate that Holden's disordered mentality is convincing and reasonable.

4.1 Reflection on the Background of the Novel and the Author's Use of Symbolism

As the winner in the Second World War, America got a lot of benefits from the war and became the richest and the most powerful country in the world. The storage of gold occupied three fourths of the world, and his armies were located almost everywhere in the world. America showed off his strength to all of the other countries and looked down upon any other country. But this was only the superficial atmosphere. Under his arrogance and haughtiness, there was the spiritual belief crisis^[28]. As soon as the war ended, several socialist countries sprang up, and also the ~~People's~~ People's Republic of China was founded in 1949. A kind of scare of the socialist countries made the American government launch the war to Korea. To everyone's surprise, this war made American never-defeated dream became foam. Thus the socialist countries became American biggest enemies. Under this situation, the ruling class of America carried out a series of strategies to maintain his strength: hot war, cold war, showing off his atoms to other countries and carrying out the high-handed policy in America and all of these made the Americans in a state of ever-being scare and mental fetters. Thus the ruling class of America was ill of the scare of communist party and practiced his high-handed policy. More importantly, the McCarthyism appeared. During the period of the notorious McCarthyism, every people were in a state of popular anxiety and everyone found

himself in danger. As a result of this policy, a lot of progressive writers experienced the political persecution and the common writers became careful to say everything. Therefore the novels, poems, films and magazines were certain to be influenced by the notorious policy ^[31]. During this period of time, people scared everything, and nobody dared to say everything freely and fearlessly. The young people indulged in the material enjoyment and there were no goals and no plans for their future.

Honestly speaking, Holden's disordered mentality in the novel is everyone's state of mind of that time. It is just expressed by a veiled way---using symbolism to uncover it by Salinger. The life style and state of mind of Holden Caulfield is just the same as all young people in the real world of that period of time.

The Catcher in the Rye was published just in 1951 and was also set in 1950s. Considering the background of the novel, it is easy for us to tell that everyone at that time including Salinger was afraid of speaking out clearly what he really wanted to say. He had to speak out what he wanted to speak in an obscure and veiled way. Otherwise he was sure to get persecution. As a result, symbolism became the most appropriate way to express his real idea in the novel at that time.

Symbolism is a kind of writing style that the author does not express his ideas directly, but the author focuses his ideas and attentions on a certain thing or a series of things. And we call this kind of thing or things symbol or symbols. That is to say, the author expresses his abstract ideas by means of describing the superficial and visible symbols.

To chase the indefinite and invisible ideas from the definite things is the goal of the symbolism. Just because the symbolism can change the indefinite ideas into the concrete things, it can make the whole work be full of indefinite meanings and the work will become more meaningful and colorful if you read it more times.

In order to fully understand the meaning of symbols, it is critical important for readers to know the writing background ^[29]. Taking the background into consideration, it is easy to understand why Salinger used so many symbols especial his personal symbols in *The Catcher in the Rye*. And it is also very helpful for us to fully appreciate and deeply understand the symbols in the novel.

4.2 Reflection on the Author's Life Style

J.D.Salinger was born in New York City in 1919. The son of a wealthy cheese

importer, Salinger grew up in a fashionable neighborhood in Manhattan and spent his youth being shuttle between various prep schools before his parents finally settled on the Valley Forge Military Academy in 1934. He graduated from Valley Forge in 1936 and attended a number of colleges, including Columbia University, but did not graduate from any of them. However, while at Columbia, Salinger took a creative writing class in which he excelled, cementing his interest in writing that he had maintained since his teenage years. Salinger had his first short story published in 1940. He continued to write even as he joined the army and fought in Europe during World War II. Upon his return to the United States and civilian life in 1946, Salinger continued to write stories, publishing them in many of the more respected magazines. In 1951, Salinger published his only full-length novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*, which propelled him onto the national stage.

Because the writer must live in a society, a complex of many different relationships with the people around him, he is a member of the society and he has to communicate with the people around him. However the social life is objective and has its natural law, so it is not on the will of the writer's. But the social life is the object of the writer's writing and to some extent the writer must conform his writing to his own life. Any writer is not able to write anything that is with nothing connection with his own life but something that is related to his life much or little.

Many events from Salinger's early life appear in *The Catcher in the Rye*. For instance, Holden Caulfield moves from prep school to prep school, is threatened with military school, and knows an older Columbia student. In the novel, such autobiographical details are transplanted into a post---World War II setting.

After the publishing of *The Catcher in the Rye*, Salinger became more and more famous day after day. However, his private life became more mysterious and his actions became odder and odder. Since 1963, Salinger has not published anything in either magazines or books. He has become an utter recluse and seldom receives interview. He leads a life of recluse in New Hampshire. He bought more than 90 acre land along the river near a hill and built a small house on the top of the hill. Around his small house, he planted many trees and located six and half feet iron fences on which alarm equipment is also equipped. Salinger seldom goes out and if there is someone wants to visit him, the person must firstly hand in a note or a letter. If the visitor is an unfamiliar person, Salinger will refuse to see and sometimes even no response at all. Being a deaf and dumb is the idea of the protagonist of Holden in *The Catcher in the Rye*. But here Salinger puts it into practice by himself.

Any writer of any work is a person who has his own will, ability, originality and independence, so the work is not just a mirror of the real society but an active and dynamic reflection of the author. Taking all of these into consideration, it is not difficult for us to discern that the thoughts, conceptions and emotions of the author always permeate through the whole work. So taking Salinger's life style into consideration, the protagonist of Holden in *The Catcher in the Rye* is understandable.

4.3 Reflection on the Life of Modern People

There is a lot in Holden that the modern people can identify readily. Much of Holden's candid outlook on life is still relevant to the youth of today and contains a truth of an eternal nature. The fact that the boy is lonely, bewildered, and pitiful, his troubles, his failings, even his minor delinquencies, and his howling for help still find warm echoes among the modern people because these represent pretty much of their own situation. This accounts for the book's continual popularity. It has been read and reread by millions across the world [30].

With the development of the economy, people become rich and can live in a comparatively comfortable life. People have a wide variety of needing in life. There are not only material needs but spiritual needs. More importantly, after the satisfaction of the material life, people are tending to pursue a high level of cultural life. Unfortunately, the level of material life and the cultural life do not always agree with each other. With the fast development of the material life, the cultural life may be going backward on the contrary. Just as after World War II, the material life in American amounted to an extremely high level, but the spiritual life is in a state of barren wasteland. The disordered mentality of the protagonist in *The Catcher in the Rye* is a perfect mirror of the barren spiritual life of that period time in America.

The social significance of any work is changing with the time going. *The Catcher in the Rye* is a good reflection of that time of America. It is also true of the present time and the modern people. Nowadays, many young people have no confidence in doing things and even no short-term goals in their life, not to mention the medium-term and long-term goals. If a person had no goals in his life, he would become nothing but a walking corpse. Just as the protagonist of Holden in the novel. Although he is alive physically, he is indeed dead spiritually. He can not make any contribution to the society and to other people, and he is only a completely consumer in the society. So in order to avoid more "Holdens" appearing in the society, in building a civilization, we have to pay attention to

its moral as well as its material aspect. Only if the spiritual life is good and rich, we can make good use of our ability to contribute to the society, because the mode of thought and the style of thinking of a person supervise the person's style of doing every thing. If the supervisor is wrong, what will be the result of his every action? So it should be our forever task to pay much attention to the civilization of the spiritual life and try our best to reduce the number of the "Holdens".

Taking the modern life of people into consideration, it is necessary for us to discern the disordered mentality of Holden. Through reading *The Catcher in the Rye*, we should become fully aware of the "Holdens" in the reality and we should try our best to help them come to the normal style of thinking and at the same time we are certain to be alert about our mentality.

Through the analysis of the background of the novel, we get a fully understanding of Salinger's employment of the symbolism in *The Catcher in the Rye*. By discerning Salinger's private life and also the writing background of the novel, it is easy for us to fully understand Holden's disordered mentality. However, the most important is not to be a 'Holden' but try our best to avoid disordered mentality in our real life by reading *The Catcher in the Rye* with the deep analysis of Holden's disordered mentality. So it reminds the readers not to be a 'Holden' in one's own life. Thus it is beneficial for us to do self-examination to better develop ourselves. We should try our best to learn something beneficial from the past, make full use of the present and make a good preparation for the future. Only by holding a positive attitude towards life can we overcome all kinds of difficulties and keep fit spiritually as well as physically. So everyone should learn to acquire a positive attitude towards life.

Notes

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Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I owe my deepest debt of gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Zhang Li, who has consistently offered me academic counsel, guidance and encouragement. Her remarkable insights and valuable suggestions have contributed greatly to the completion of this thesis. Without her critical comments and patient instructions the completion of the present paper would have been impossible.

I would also like to extend my hearty thanks to all my teachers, especially Guo Lei, Wang Guoqiao, Liu Yang, for the knowledge and inspirations I have acquired from their lectures and suggestions, which have paved the way for the study.

Thanks also go to my parents, all my friends and many other people for the warm-hearted help.

在学期间发表的学术论文和参加科研情况

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错位的精神家园——析《麦田守望者》中象征手法对主题的深化

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