

Name _____ Date _____ Period/Block _____

The Catcher in the Rye
Creative Writing and Analysis Portfolio

Part 1 Instructions: Song Analysis

After reviewing the definition and purpose of tone, you will be selecting 3 songs that you think reflect the tone of Holden's narrative voice, relevance to a conflict, and the discussion of a theme. For whatever song you choose, you will need to offer pieces of evidence from the novel and song.

Options: Complete the handout provided or create a powerpoint (or another form if a presentation) embedding the songs and your explanations in the same medium. **If you choose the latter option, be sure to email me your powerpoint PRIOR to presentation day.**

Part 2 Instructions: Creative Writing

The Catcher in the Rye included language that was full of idioms and figurative language. This language helped us understand the narrator's voice and allowed us to better visualize the events and situations in the novel. You have the same power through creative writing. For this project, you will complete three creative writing pieces. Each is detailed below.

2A. Six Word Memoir

Once asked to write a full story in six words, legend has it that novelist

Ernest Hemingway responded: "For Sale: baby shoes, never worn."

These six-word stories or memoirs can have a range of emotions from sad to funny, but they are always concise. In many ways, *The Catcher in the Rye* is like Holden Caulfield's memoir. As such, the goal is to take what we have learned from the novel and summarize it as succinctly as possible. For the six-word stories about the novel, you should aim to explore topics such as theme, mood, setting, language, characterization, controversy, modernism, the anti-hero, symbols, etc. The six-word memoirs about you can be as broad or specific as you wish. Be creative!

- Write three (3) six word stories to summarize *The Catcher in the Rye*.
- Write three (3) six word memoirs about your life.

Total length: 6 - six word stories.

2B. Ode To the Novel

An ode is a poem of praise to a person, place, or thing. An ode does not have to rhyme, but it can.

As an example, you can write an ode as an honor Allie. Some questions to help you write your poem:

What was Allie like?
Why is he so important to Holden?
Why does Holden feel this way?
What might Allie represent or symbolize?

Here is an example:

Who were you?
Smiling, red hair bobbing
Racing so fast, fast, faster
Leaving life behind while I stumble, fall I needed you guy.
You were the best.

You can write an ode to New York City, to Pencey Prep, to a character, to the ducks on the pond, etc.

Practice writing through a particular point-of-view, use symbolism, or allusions in your ode.

Length: The ode should be 10 lines.

2C. Found Poem

One of the ways to understand the tone or mood of a piece of literature is to use the words from the text to create an original poem. To create a Found Poem, readers select and combine memorable words and phrases from a text to create or “find” a poem. For this poem, you will be using the text from J.D. Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye*.

Select passages that have rich language and strong emotions that depict a certain scene or event from the novel that interests you. ***All of the text must be from the novel.*** If you are struggling, you can include a few words of your own and change the tenses. Play with line breaks for creativity.

Choose a title-- NOT “Found Poem”! Also, include the page number (s) of the passage you used at the bottom or next to the lines

e.g. This is a line of text (#) ← that is the page number

Length: Your poem must be a minimum of 15 lines.

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The Catcher in the Rye
Creative Writing and Song Analysis Portfolio Rubric

Criteria	5	4	3	2
Content Requirements	Demonstrates clear and thorough understanding of significant aspects of the topic. All project requirements are expertly met.	Demonstrates understanding of various aspects of the topic. All project requirements are met	Demonstrates understanding of some aspects of the topic. Some project requirements are missing.	Demonstrates limited understanding of some aspects of the topic or includes several missing elements.
Evidence and Support for Tone, Conflict and Theme X3	Evidence contains explicit details that effectively support the topic Thorough analysis and explanations are provided.	Evidence contains details that support the topic. Includes analysis and explanations.	Evidence does not contain adequate details. Examples and explanations are summaries and paraphrases.	Evidence is vague, inadequate, irrelevant, or unsupported. Off-topic.
Creativity/ presentation	Uses creative presentation techniques which enhance and enliven the presentation of information, and which serve the content in an effective and appropriate way.	Uses creative presentation techniques, but which at times distract from or fail to serve the content	Uses creative presentation techniques which fail to enliven the presentation of information, or which consistently distract from or fail to serve the content	Minimal or no evidence of creative effort.
Language Conventions	The use and level of language is sophisticated and is free of errors.	The use and level of language is effective and contains minimal errors that do not distract the reader.	The use and level of language is clear, but contains errors that minimally distract the reader.	The use and level of language is inadequate and contains too many errors.
Clarity/ Relevance effectiveness	Superbly clear, relevant and effective in capturing story's/poem's mood, tone, point of view, and emotion	Clear, relevant and effective in capturing story's/poem's mood, tone, point of view, and emotion	Relevant and adequate in capturing story's/poem's mood, tone, point of view, and emotion, but could be clearer or more effective	Irrelevant or inadequate in capturing story's/poem's mood, tone, point of view, and emotion.

Total _____/35