*The Catcher in the Rye* Essay Prompt, Rubric, and Organizer

Write a 4-paragraph essay in response to the prompt below. Make sure you take the time to organize your thoughts. You may use your book AND your Chronology Journal as you write your essay. You need at least TWO pieces of evidence (quoted or paraphrased) in each of your body paragraphs (min. 1 quote per paragraph). Make sure your analysis is interesting and thoughtful. Add a picture of the symbol at the end of your essay. Proofread carefully when you are done! You may use any 3 vocabulary words in your essay for extra credit.

 Ducks in Central Park Red hunting hat Allie’s baseball mitt

 Partly frozen lagoon “Little Shirley Beans” record Museum of Natural History

🡪 Choose ONE symbol in *The Catcher in the Rye* and analyze its meaning and effectiveness. (How effective is Salinger’s use of this symbol? What is especially fitting about this symbol choice?)

Essay Rubric 🡪 your essay grade will be calculated as follows:

 original title 2 pts

 picture of symbol 4 pts

 essay prep (below) 4 pts

 2 2 3 2

Introduction: hook, background info, thesis (all parts of EQ), fluidity 9 pts

 4 3

Organization: topic sentences, logical sequence & transitions 7 pts

 4 6 3

Evidence/analysis: details are provided and well explained, 2+ quotes (cited)

 focus on the essay question (2) 15 pts

 3 5

Conclusion: brief summary, significance & strong ending 8 pts

 2 2 4 3

Mechanics: spelling, grammar, vocabulary & tone, sentence structure/variety 11 pts

TOTAL 60 points

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SYMBOL | Obvious (literal) detail #1 & what it suggests abstractly | Detail #2 and what it suggests abstractly | Detail #3 and what it suggests abstractly |
|  |  |  |  |
| Evidence (quote w/location)& analysis |  |  |  |



ORGANIZER EXAMPLE

A SYMBOL is an object in the story that has additional, abstract meaning beyond its literal definition. In order to analyze a symbol’s meaning and significance effectively, one has to examine it from both angles: the literal and the abstract.

Review the example (on Cyrano’s nose from *Cyrano de Bergerac*) below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SYMBOL | Obvious (literal) detail #1 and what it suggests abstractly | Detail #2 and what it suggests abstractly | Detail #3 and what it suggests abstractly |
| *Example: Cyrano’s nose (his insecurity – tragic flaw)* | Detail #1: It’s big, front & center, can’t miss his nose🡪 His insecurity is always there. He can’t hide it despite his bravado. | Detail #2: Focusing on one’s nose blurs one’s vision 🡪 He is so focused on his flaw that he fails to see Roxane’s change | Detail #3: You don’t have to see the nose to live with it; ignoring it creates clear vision 🡪 something Cyrano never learns to do |
| Evidence(quote w/location) | He makes up jokes about his own nose (1.4) but then confesses he feels ugly (1.5) | When Christian assures him Roxane would love him even if he were ugly, he doesn’t believe him (4.8) | He fails to learn the lesson of inner value even after Roxane confesses her love for him (5.5) |