

1. In J.D. Salinger's Catcher in the Rye, Holden often behaves like a prophet or a saint, pointing out the phoniness and wickedness in the world around him. Is Holden as perfect as he wants to be? Are there instances where he is phony and full of hypocrisy? What do these moments reveal about his character and his psychological problems?

2. Compare and contrast Holden and Gene. (Some ways to think about this are: How are they alike? How would they see each other if they met? What would their opinion of the other be? Would they get along and become friends or dislike each other? How do they deal with the problems they are faced with? etc.) Use specific details from each novel to illustrate your arguments.

3. At the end of the novel A Separate Peace, Gene says, "...my war ended before I even put on a uniform; I was on active duty all my time at school; I killed my enemy there." Explain what Gene means and explain what lessons John Knowles' novel shares with the reader.