

J. D. Sallinger - The Catcher In The Rye

I must admit that this book really influenced my mood and way of thinking. Every chapter of it made me feel different, made me think of it. Somewhere I was almost depressed and on the other hand, there were also parts, when you could smile. The book is full of opposite feelings that make it so special. The author succeeded to write a “different” kind of book, a book to which only few are alike. His style has nothing to do with the ones in the past. He created something new.

I find the most interesting the way how Sallinger describes growing up of a teenager and all the problems that come along. The author creates the image of his main character totally different to those which are in our society known as “normal”. His main character hates the school, he lies, he looks for quarrels, he has strange company, he goes to strange places, actually he is totally different. I could also say that he is purposeless.

In my opinion the book criticizes our modern society. It is possible to move away from the society, but sooner or later you will come to a problem, that you will not be able to solve by yourself. Holden says that in “his” society actually other people do not know what he would like to tell them; no one knows how to listen to him. And it is the same with all other children. Adults do not listen to their children. They are in their own world. Sallinger was familiar with this problem, because he had similar problem in his family. In general, his’s childhood was unhappy. In some way I think Sallinger is right and that he hits the core of the social problems. In spite of pretending and covering up that they do not exist, there are and there will be differences between generations, there will always be a gulf between two subsequent generations.

Another problem the author has exposed in this book is also the relationship between a man and a woman. He says that “you can’t trust girls when it comes to boys”. If you can not trust your partner, whom can you trust then? Nobody? Is this what is happening today? In this respect I disagree with Sallinger. We can find a person to whom we can trust and if we do not have such person we must not give up looking for it.