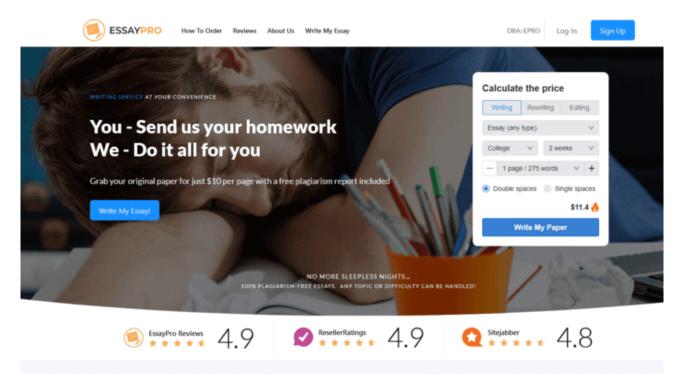
Masks in The Catcher in the Rye



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Masks in The Catcher in the Rye

What happen if everyone in the world is wearing a mask? That is exactly what this world is; everyone wears a mask. Most people we see every day have their true identity hidden behind a facade. Although a true identity cannot be divulge just by looking, but with a careful scrutiny of one's character will reveal to what is behind the facade.

Equivalent to what happened in J.D. Salinger's novel The Catcher in the Rye.

Holden Caulfield, a typical teenager in the 50's with a morally loose, rude and obscene personality. However, his rudeness is just a mask

that he uses to cover his decent, sympathetic, and mature character inside. Throughout the entire story, Holden uses unchaste language to offense himself. The use of these words may insult the reader, but the truth is, he is building a facade so that he can obtain the approval he feels they have oppose him thus far. As a teenager, the critical period of his life, Holden struggled to find the meaning of life, and his survival, they easily depressed Holden demands their company, even though he calls them "phonies." Holden is really a decent and mature teenager, but he only hides behind the false front to obtain the approval. In the meantime, he tries to find the meaning of his existence. There's Holden's false front, a rude and without standard teen, but what's behind it are important. A decent, sympathetic and mature teen lies behind the mask. The only time he reveals these distinctions is when he comes to some poin...

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...true

self, his reality. He also delighted by his younger brother, Allie. He stated that Allie is a nice boy. Allie loved to write poems, so he wrote poetry all over his own baseball mitt. Holden kept Allie's baseball mitt after Allie died of leukemia. When his brother died, Holden was so upset that he broke all the windows in the garage with his fists. Subsequently, Holden wanted to be the "Catcher in the Rye," but he now realized that he cannot "catch (or safe) all the children that started to go over the cliff."

Thus, Holden's mask is just a false front, a facade. But what's behind it is the most important. He uses the language to find the meaning of life, his existence. The true Holden shows his decent heart, sympathy and maturity.

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