Catcher and the Rye Context

* In the 40’s and 50’s there was great prosperity in America
* The threat of communism threatened prosperity
* Captures the Tensions between success and fear
* Fluctuates between hope and disillusion
* Holden and Salinger, both struggled/dropped out of school
* Also they both found significance and meaning in narrative (books)
* They also both seek anonymity in New York
* Authors war time trauma is reflected in Holden’s Character
* Praise and Joy vs Criticism and outrage (review)
* Banned due to its use of taboo topics and language

JD Salinger

* Intimately articulates what it is to be young and sensitive and precociously existential
* Famously known as a recluse
* Spoke to the teenage condition
* Person who shot John Lennon had a copy of Catcher and the Rye in his pocket
* JD had an amazing ear for American dialogue
* Salinger managed to put his finger on the struggle of significance of self and culture