Inquiry into *The Catcher in the Rye* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

**Learning Goals:**

1. *I can use the inquiry process to develop and trace my own ideas about a theme or topic throughout a text so that I can develop a deeper understanding of the text.*
2. *I can reflect on my past writing and use the writing process effectively so that I can write an effective formal essay.*

As a class, we will be studying both J.D. Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye* and the film adaptation of Stephen Chbvosky’s *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. We will examine the big ideas and themes of the works, debate thought-provoking questions, discuss characterization, etc. You will then take these ideas and formulate a driving question to answer in a formal essay.

**Developing your Driving Question:**

For this essay, you will personally select and pursue a driving question that frames your understanding of the two works (ex: what makes a literary character relatable?). It may change and develop as our study of the two texts unfolds. This question is intended to act as the basis for your thesis. Throughout the unit, you will collect information that helps you in your search for answers to your question.

**Step 1-** Before watching the film:

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| After already examining some of the themes in *The Cather in the Rye*, choose 3 broad topics of interest to you to try and connect them to *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*: |

**Step 2 –** While watching the film:

***The Perks of Being a Wallflower* – Analysis:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Big Ideas from Movie: | Examples from *Perks…* | Possible connections to *Catcher* |
| **The need for people** 🡪 connections (someone to listen to you and share your experiences with)  **Related themes:**  Isolation, moral support, coping mechanisms, protection |  |  |
| **The Mold** 🡪 Who fits in? How is conformity emphasized? What happens to those that don’t fit in?  **Related themes:**  Conformity, isolation, coping mechanisms, sources of pain, protection |  |  |
| **Effects of the past and/or fear of the future**  **Related themes:**  Future goals, choices affecting behaviour, maturity, coping mechanisms, sources of pain, protection |  |  |
| **Hope** (for the characters, for society)  **Related themes:**  Future goals, choices affecting behaviour, maturity |  |  |
| Key Quotations about life: | | |

**Step 3 -** After finishing the film (and while still reading the novel):

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| --- | --- |
| My Driving Question: | |
| Ideas from *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* | Ideas from *The Cather in the Rye* |