

mature than he is. Holden tells readers, "You take a really smart girl, and half the time she's trying to lead you around the dance floor, or else she's such a lousy dancer, the best thing to do is stay at the table and just get drunk with her (Salinger 92)." I seem to think that getting girls is as simple as getting drunk with her. Holden lacks the understanding of the depth other people have which comes from how judgmental he is about people at first glance. Readers see how Holden struggles to connect with people on a personal level, such as those girls at "The Lavender Room". "Wudga say?" she said. She wasn't listening to me, even. Her mind was wandering all over the place (Salinger 93)." Holden is interacting with a woman who is about 30 years old and tries to connect with her through dancing. This is an example of Holden trying to make a personal connection but is being ignored. Readers see that Holden avoids unnecessary interactions, he does this so he isn't vulnerable. He keeps his emotions bottled up in him and does not want to feel weak on the rare occasions he lets them out.

There are a few people that Holden does trust and can be real with. One of these people is Phoebe, who is his sister. The readers can see that this is someone who Holden is close to.

"Please, Holden. Please let me go. I'll be very, very, very--You won't even--""You're not going. Now, shut up! Gimme that bag," I said (Salinger 206). In this quote, Phoebe wants to run away with Holden because she does not want to be without him. Holden wants to run away because he wants to be on his own and search for the security and stability he is looking for. Knowing that he is quick to judge others, it seems like if Phoebe wasn't the one to make him think twice about leaving, he would not be as convincing. This is another example of his maturity, but now he uses it in a good way. He knows that by running away with him, he is disturbing with his sister's