

# The Many Lives of the Angry Young Man: A Comprehensive Examination of a Literary Archetype

The angry young man is a literary archetype that has been around for centuries. He is typically a young, male character who is disillusioned with society and its values. He is often intelligent and articulate, but he is also prone to fits of anger and violence. The angry young man is often seen as a symbol of rebellion and alienation, and he has been a popular figure in literature, film, and television for generations.

There are many different variations of the angry young man archetype. Some of the most famous examples include Holden Caulfield from J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, James Dean's character in *Rebel Without a Cause*, and Marlon Brando's character in *The Wild One*. These characters are all angry and disillusioned with society, but they also have a certain amount of charm and charisma. They are often seen as rebels and outsiders, but they also have a strong sense of justice and compassion.



## John Osborne: The Many Lives of the Angry Young Man

by John Heilpern

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The angry young man archetype has been used to explore a variety of themes in literature, film, and television. These themes include rebellion, alienation, identity, and the search for meaning. The angry young man is often seen as a symbol of the generation gap, and he has been used to explore the tensions between parents and children, as well as the challenges of growing up in a rapidly changing world.

The angry young man archetype is still relevant today. He can be seen in the characters of Holden Caulfield, James Dean, and Marlon Brando, but he can also be found in the characters of contemporary literature, film, and television. The angry young man is a complex and fascinating character, and he continues to resonate with audiences around the world.

## **The History of the Angry Young Man**

The angry young man archetype has its roots in the Romantic era of literature. Romantic writers were often disillusioned with the Enlightenment, and they saw the angry young man as a symbol of the individual's struggle against society. The angry young man was a popular figure in Romantic literature, and he can be found in the works of William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Lord Byron.

In the 20th century, the angry young man archetype was revived by the Beat Generation. Beat writers were disillusioned with the materialism and conformity of American society, and they saw the angry young man as a symbol of rebellion and individuality. The angry young man was a popular

figure in Beat literature, and he can be found in the works of Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and William S. Burroughs.

In the 1950s, the angry young man archetype was popularized in film and television. James Dean's character in *Rebel Without a Cause* was a classic example of the angry young man, and he inspired a generation of young people. Marlon Brando's character in *The Wild One* was another iconic example of the angry young man, and he helped to cement the archetype's place in popular culture.

The angry young man archetype has continued to be popular in literature, film, and television. He can be found in the works of contemporary writers such as J.D. Salinger, Irvine Welsh, and Chuck Palahniuk. The angry young man is a complex and fascinating character, and he continues to resonate with audiences around the world.

## **The Psychology of the Angry Young Man**

The angry young man is often seen as a symbol of rebellion and alienation. He is disillusioned with society and its values, and he is often prone to fits of anger and violence. However, the angry young man is also a complex and contradictory character. He is often intelligent and articulate, and he has a strong sense of justice and compassion. Psychologists have identified a number of factors that can contribute to the development of an angry young man personality.

One factor is genetics. Some people are simply more prone to anger and aggression than others. This may be due to a combination of factors, including genetics, brain chemistry, and life experiences.

Another factor is environment. Children who grow up in chaotic or abusive homes are more likely to develop anger problems. They may learn to use anger as a way to cope with stress or to get what they want.

Finally, social factors can also contribute to the development of an angry young man personality. Children who are exposed to violence or discrimination are more likely to develop anger problems. They may also develop a sense of injustice and resentment, which can lead to feelings of anger and hostility.

The angry young man is a complex and contradictory character. He is often seen as a symbol of rebellion and alienation, but he is also intelligent, articulate, and compassionate. Psychologists have identified a number of factors that can contribute to the development of an angry young man personality, including genetics, environment, and social factors.

## **The Angry Young Man in Literature**

The angry young man is a popular figure in literature. He can be found in the works of a wide range of authors, from William Shakespeare to J.D. Salinger. The angry young man is often used to explore

- Rebellion
- Alienation
- Identity
- The search for meaning

The angry young man is often seen as a symbol of the generation gap. He is disillusioned with the values of his parents' generation, and he is often at

odds with authority figures. The angry young man may be a rebel without a cause, or he may be fighting for a just cause. He is often a complex and contradictory character, and he can be both attractive and repellent.

### **Holden Caulfield in *The Catcher in the Rye***

Holden Caulfield is one of the most berühmte examples of the angry young man in literature. He is the protagonist of J.D. Salinger's novel *The Catcher in the Rye*. Holden is a 16-year-old boy who has been expelled from prep school. He runs away from home and spends several days wandering around New York City. During his time in the city, Holden encounters a variety of people, including a prostitute, a pimp, and a former teacher. He also has several conversations with his younger sister, Phoebe.

Holden is a complex and contradictory character. He is intelligent and articulate, but he is also cynical and pessimistic. He is disillusioned with the world around him, and he sees phoniness and hypocrisy everywhere he goes. He is also deeply lonely and vulnerable. Holden is a rebel without a cause, and he is not sure what he wants out of life. However, he is determined to stay true to himself, even if it means living a life of isolation and loneliness.

### **James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause***

James Dean's character in *Rebel Without a Cause* is another classic example of the angry young man. The film tells the story of Jim Stark, a teenager who moves to a new town with his parents. Jim is quickly drawn into a world of juvenile delinquency and violence. He joins a gang of greasers, and he soon becomes a leader of the group. Jim is a complex and contradictory character. He is intelligent and sensitive, but he is also

impulsive and destructive. He is disillusioned with society, and he sees no future for himself.

Jim is a rebel without a cause, and he is not sure what he wants out of life. However, he is determined to live on his own terms, even if it means living a life of danger and violence. Jim's story is a tragic one, but it is also a powerful and moving story. He is a symbol of the lost and alienated youth of the 1950s, and he continues to resonate with audiences today.

### **Marlon Brando in *The Wild One***

Marlon Brando's character in *The Wild One* is another iconic example of the angry young man. The film tells the story of Johnny Strabler, the leader of a motorcycle gang. Johnny is a tough and rebellious character, and he is not afraid to stand up for what he believes in. He is also a complex and contradictory character. He is loyal to his friends, but he is also capable of great violence. Johnny is a symbol of the post-war generation, and he represents the anger and disillusionment of the time.

Johnny is a rebel without a cause, and he is not sure what he wants out of life. However, he is determined to live on his own terms, even if it means living a life of danger and violence. Johnny's story is a tragic one, but it is also a powerful and moving story. He is a symbol of the lost and alienated youth of the 1950s, and he continues to resonate with audiences today.

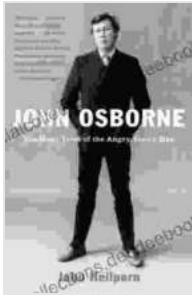
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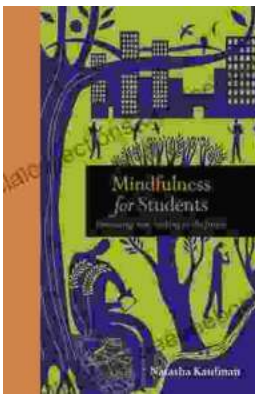
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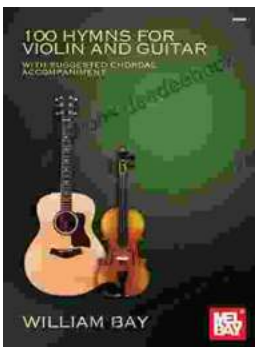
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