

The Catcher in the Rye

Reading Check

Chapter 7-8

1. What happens later that night, after Holden's fight with Stradlater? **He sleeps in Ackley's room, wakes up, leaves, decides to go to New York that night, packs his bags, cries and leaves.**
2. What does he yell as he leaves his dorm floor? **"Sleep tight, ya morons!"**
3. Who sits next to him on the train to NY? **His classmate, Ernest Morrow's mother**
4. What things does he tell this person?
 - a. **That her son, who he detests, is the most popular boy on campus and would have been elected class president if he'd let the other boys nominate him.**
 - b. **Holden tells her his own name is Rudolph Schmidt, which is actually the school janitor's name.**
 - c. **When she asks why he is leaving Pencey early, Holden claims to be returning to New York for a brain tumor operation.**

Summary: Chapter 7

Holden talks for a while with Ackley and then tries to fall asleep in the bed belonging to Ackley's roommate, who is away for the weekend. But he cannot stop imagining Jane fooling around with Stradlater, and he has trouble falling asleep. He wakes Ackley and talks with him some more, asking whether he could run off and join a monastery without being Catholic. Ackley is annoyed by the conversation, and Holden is annoyed by Ackley's "phoniness," so he leaves. Outside, in the dorm's hallway, he decides that he will leave for New York that night instead of waiting until Wednesday. After passing a few days there in secret, he will wait until his parents have digested the news of his expulsion before he returns to their apartment. He packs his bags, dons his hunting hat, and begins to cry. As he heads into the hallway, he yells "Sleep tight, ya morons!" to the boys on his floor before stepping outside to leave Pencey forever.

Summary: Chapter 8

Holden walks the entire way to the train station and catches a late train to New York. At Trenton, an attractive older woman gets on and sits next to him. She turns out to be the mother of his classmate, Ernest Morrow. He dislikes Ernest immensely but tells extravagant lies about him to his mother, claiming that he is the most popular boy on campus and would have been elected class president if he'd let the other boys nominate him. Holden tells her his own name is Rudolph Schmidt, which is actually the school janitor's name. When she asks why he is leaving Pencey early, Holden claims to be returning to New York for a brain tumor operation.