

The Catcher in the Rye

Reading Check

Chapter 9-10

1. Once back in New York, the first person Holden tries to invite for a drink is? A cab driver
2. Holden wonders about the fate of which animals in Central Park? The ducks in the lagoon
3. After Holden checks into his room at the Edmont Hotel, what does he see out of his window? A variety of bizarre sex acts going on in other rooms of the hotel
4. What drink does the waiter serve Holden in the Lavendar room? Coke
5. What does Holden think of the three women with whom he met and danced? Idiots

Summary: Chapter 9

At Penn Station, Holden wants to call someone but cannot think of anyone to call—his brother D. B. is in Hollywood; his sister, Phoebe, is young and probably asleep; he doesn't feel like calling Jane Gallagher; and another girl, Sally Hayes, has a mother who hates him. So, Holden takes a cab to the Edmont Hotel. He tries to make conversation with the driver, asking him where the ducks in the Central Park lagoon go in the winter, but the driver is uninterested. In his room at the Edmont, he looks out across the hotel courtyard into the lighted windows on the other side and discovers a variety of bizarre acts taking place. One man dresses in women's clothing, and in another room a man and a woman take turns spitting mouthfuls of their drinks into each other's face. Holden begins to feel aroused, so he calls Faith Cavendish, a promiscuous girl recommended to him by a boy he met at a party, and tries to make a date with her. She refuses, claiming she needs her beauty sleep. She offers to meet him tomorrow, but he doesn't want to wait that long, and he hangs up without arranging to meet her.

Summary: Chapter 10

Still feeling restless, Holden changes his shirt and goes downstairs to the Lavender Room, the Edmont's nightclub. Before he leaves his room, he thinks again about calling his little sister, Phoebe. Referring to her as "old Phoebe," he gives a description of her character that is remarkably similar to the description he gave of Allie in Chapter . Like Allie, she has red hair and is unusually intelligent for her age. He recalls the time he and Phoebe went to see Hitchcock's *The Steps* (despite his professed loathing for the cinema, he has clearly seen many movies and has strong opinions about them). He notes Phoebe's humor and cleverness, and mentions that she writes never-ending fictional stories that feature a character named "Hazle" Weatherfield. According to Holden, Phoebe's one flaw is that she is perhaps too emotional.

In the Lavender Room, Holden takes a table and tries to order a cocktail. He explains that due to his height and his gray hair, he is often able to order alcohol, but, in this case, the waiter refuses. He flirts and dances with three women who are visiting from Seattle. They seem amused but uninterested in this obviously young man who tries to appear older and debonair. After tolerating him for a while, they begin to laugh at him; they also depress him by being obsessed with movie stars. When Holden lies to one of them about having just seen Gary Cooper, she tells the other two that she caught a glimpse of Gary Cooper as well. Holden pays for their drinks, then leaves the Lavender Room.