

Catcher in the Rye
Chapters 8-10

1. By this point in the novel, it is obvious that Holden disapproves of “phonies.” Keeping Holden’s disapproval of “phonies” in mind, how could his behavior on the train to New York be considered hypocritical? What reasons might he use to justify his “phony” actions?
2. When Holden arrives at Penn station, he recalls that Mrs. Hayes once said he “had no direction in life” (p. 59), and, despite his desire to “[give] somebody a buzz,” he “ended up not calling anybody.”
 - a. What evidence is there to support the idea that he has no direction in life? Why doesn’t he?
 - b. What broader meaning about Holden’s predicament can you infer from his having no one to call
3. On p. 60, Holden once again wonders about the ducks in Central Park.
 - a. Why do you think Holden is concerned about them?
 - b. If he does find out where the ducks go when the lake “gets all frozen over,” of what use do you think the answer will be to him?
4. Summarize Holden’s thoughts about girls and sex (p. 62-63, top of p. 73).