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In this chapter from "The Catcher in the Rye," Holden Caulfield wakes up feeling restless and hungry, having skipped breakfast. He contemplates calling old Jane but decides instead to reach out to Sally Hayes, an acquaintance from school. Their conversation reveals Holden's ambivalence; while he finds Sally phony and irritating, there's an undeniable attraction. They arrange to meet for a matinee, even as Holden internally critiques her somewhat shallow interests.

After hanging up, he packs his bag and exits his hotel, determined to avoid a confrontation with Maurice, who he loathes. Instead of hoping for a purposeful day, he catches a cab to Grand Central Station without any concrete destination in mind, aware that he has to wait until Wednesday to return home. He checks his meager finances, recalling how he tends to waste money, and heads to a sandwich bar for breakfast, indulging in a larger meal than usual.

During breakfast, he encounters two nuns, which prompts a light-hearted interaction. The sight of their cheap luggage comes off as significant to Holden, reminding him of his own experiences with class and status. He offers them ten dollars for their charity collection, perceiving them as genuinely humble and kind. They seem surprised by his generosity, underscoring Holden's internal conflict about his wealth.

The nuns reveal they are teacher nuns moving to a new convent. Holden engages in a discussion about literature, sharing his favorites, including *Romeo and Juliet*. Despite feeling awkward discussing such topics with a nun, he appreciates their friendly demeanor. The conversation taps into his insecurities about social connections, particularly with regard to religious identity. He feels a notable relief when they don't ask about his own religious background.

However, an embarrassing moment ensues when he accidentally blows smoke in the nuns' faces while saying goodbye, which adds to his feelings of regret and social anxiety. As they leave, he grapples with guilt over his donation, as he has plans to spend the remainder of his money on the upcoming date with Sally, and once again recognizes how money complicates relationships and feelings.