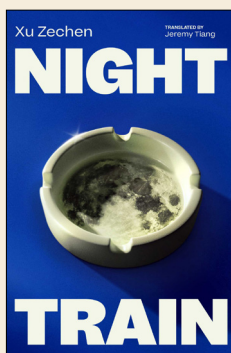


## NIGHT TRAIN

Xu Zechen, translated from Chinese by Jeremy Tiang

1. Forms of movement like running and trains are thematic threads across Xu Zechen's writing. What role do running and trains play in Munian's life?
2. *Night Train* depicts two generations of Chinese society: an older generation with the experience and memory of the Cultural Revolution, and a younger generation navigating contemporary capitalist China. How does the novel represent the challenges of each, and how the generations relate to each other?
3. What literary strategies does the novel use to achieve its fast-paced narrative? How does the pace of the reading experience compare to the pace of the characters' own lives?
4. How does *Night Train* reflect, expand, and/or challenge the conventions of the academic or campus novel?
5. What mental health challenges do the characters in *Night Train* face? What is the novel's perspective on these challenges and how the characters respond to them?
6. Munian must navigate a challenging bureaucracy to receive his academic degrees. How does the bureaucracy reflect larger social structures in the novel? How does *Night Train* compare to other bureaucratic novels you have read?
7. Describe the novel's structure. Is it a linear coming-of-age story, a circular narrative, a murder mystery, something else or a combination?
8. Early in the novel, Munian reflects, "All young people face the same problems" (pg. 65). What problems does the novel identify, and are they transferrable across contexts?



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