

Comprehension Check Questions for

Holes

by Luis Sachar

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HOLES

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Holes

Comprehension Check Questions

Chapter 1

1. Where is Camp Green Lake and what is it like there?
2. Based on the statement “the Warden owns the shade” what kind of person do you think the Warden is?
3. How should campers treat the rattlesnakes and scorpions?
4. What is the worst thing that can happen at Camp Green Lake? Why?
5. Explain why the narrator makes this warning to the readers at the beginning of the book.

Chapter 2

1. Who goes to Camp Green Lake and why?
2. What choice did the judge give Stanley Yelnats?
3. Draw a conclusion about what Stanley might think the camp is like.

Chapter 3

1. Describe Stanley Yelnats.
2. What is unusual about Stanley’s name?
3. What does Stanley’s father do? What is his current project?
4. What is the family joke about the no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather?
5. What happened to Stanley’s great-grandfather, the first Stanley Yelnats?
6. Analyze Stanley’s “luck.” Does Stanley really have bad luck or does he deserve to be at the camp?

Chapter 4

1. Who is Mr. Sir?
2. Write two unusual things about Mr. Sir.
3. The bus driver tells Mr. Sir “Nine hours here and now nine hours back.” Mr. Sir then shows Stanley the outside of the camp. From this, what can you infer about the camp?
4. According to Mr. Sir, what will Stanley’s days be like at camp?
5. Analyze Mr. Sir’s statement when he says, “You’re not in the Girl Scouts anymore”?

Chapter 5

1. Who is Mr. Pendanski?
2. What is the one rule Mr. Pendanski tells Stanley he must obey?
3. Who are the other boys in tent D?
4. What does Mr. Pendanski say about Zero?
5. What do the boys call Mr. Pendanski? Why do you think they call him that?
6. Evaluate Armpit's behavior. Why do you think he got so angry with Stanley when he called him Theodore instead of Armpit?

Chapter 6

1. Write a one-sentence description of Stanley's first camp experience.
2. Who is Clyde Livingston?
3. Why do you think the boys don't believe Stanley stole Clyde Livingston's sneakers?
4. What had Clyde Livingston done with his shoes before they were stolen?
5. What was the true story about Stanley and the sneakers?
6. What does the word "destiny" mean? What is meant by "Stanley had felt like he was holding destiny's shoes" (p. 24)?

Chapter 7

This chapter alternates between Stanley digging his first hole at Camp Green Lake and flashbacks about Stanley's great-great-grandfather. The first four questions are about Stanley digging the hole; the other questions are about the flashback.

1. Describe Stanley's attempts at digging his hole.
2. What will happen if Stanley digs up something interesting?
3. What are some of the problems Stanley encounters while he digs?
4. How does Stanley feel when he finally finishes his hole?
5. What does Elya Yelnats want and what does he have to do to get it?
6. How does Madame Zeroni help Elya? What does Elya have to do?
7. What does Madame Zeroni ask for in return? What will happen if Elya doesn't return the favor?
8. Why does Elya tell Myra to marry Igor?
9. What happens to Elya?
10. Do you think that Stanley's family is cursed? Explain your answer.

Chapter 8

1. What does a yellow-spotted lizard look like?
2. What are the habits of the yellow-spotted lizard?
3. Infer why the narrator spends an entire chapter on the yellow-spotted lizard.

Chapter 9

1. Explain why the rec room is called the Wreck room.
2. What are the reasons X-Ray gives when he says the second hole is the hardest?
3. What kind of letter does Stanley write to his mother? Why do you think he does this?
4. How does Stanley get his nickname?
5. Infer why Stanley doesn't realize that he is Caveman until the end of the chapter.

Chapter 10

1. How is digging the second hole harder for Stanley? How is it easier?
2. Why is Stanley excited about the fossilized rock?
3. What is Mr. Pendanski's reaction to the rock?
4. How do the boys react to the rock? Why do you think they react this way?
5. Predict the kind of item you think the Warden would think was interesting to dig up. Explain your answer.

Chapter 11

1. What does X-Ray want from Stanley?
2. Why is Stanley surprised that X-Ray is the leader?
3. How does Stanley feel about his new nickname?
4. Analyze why Stanley enjoys his fantasy about Derrick Dunne.

Chapter 12

1. What is going on in the tent when Stanley returns?
2. Who does Stanley blame for his trip to Camp Green Lake?
3. Why do the other boys think that is funny?
4. How does Mr. Pendanski insult Zero?
5. Infer why Zero says, "I like to dig holes"?

Chapter 13

1. What changes does Stanley notice about himself?
2. What is Stanley's reaction when he digs up something that glistens?
3. What did Stanley find?
4. Why does Stanley suggest that X-Ray wait until the next day to show Mom the tube?
5. Explain why Stanley moves up a spot in the water line.

Chapter 14

1. How does X-Ray react the next morning when Stanley asks him if he has the tube?
2. What happens when X-Ray shows Mr. Pendanski the tube?
3. How is X-Ray rewarded?
4. Describe the Warden. What kind of person is she?

Chapter 15

1. What changes about the way the boys dig the holes?
2. What does Zigzag tell Stanley when Stanley wonders how the Warden knows their names?
3. What two things does Stanley realize about the digging?
4. Argue whether or not Stanley is unlucky at this point in the book.

Chapter 16

1. How does the mood of the digging change the next day?
2. From whom does Stanley get a letter?
3. What does he learn about his father's project?
4. Assess Zero's reaction to Stanley's questions about the old lady in the shoe.

Chapter 17

1. How does the Warden change as the digging progresses?
2. What does Zigzag do to Stanley? Why?
3. Why do you think Zigzag acts the way he does about Stanley's dirt?
4. Compare Mr. Sir's first aid care for Stanley's wound with first aid care you might get at the school nurse's office or at a hospital. What can you infer from your comparison about the care the camp gives the boys?

Chapter 18

1. What does Stanley learn about Zero?
2. What does Zero ask Stanley?
3. What is Stanley's reply to Zero?
4. Explain how you thought Stanley would react to Zero. Compare what you thought Stanley would say with what he did say to Zero.

Chapter 19

1. What does Magnet do?
2. What happens when Stanley gets the bag?
3. What does Stanley say when Mr. Sir questions him about how he got the bag?
4. Where does Mr. Sir take him?
5. Analyze Stanley's behavior. Why does he tell Mr. Sir that he stole the bag instead of telling him the truth?

Chapter 20

1. Why is Stanley surprised to see holes by the cabin?
2. What does the Warden show Stanley?
3. What does the Warden do to Mr. Sir?
4. Analyze the Warden's behavior toward Mr. Sir. Why does she scratch him?
5. Infer what the Warden means when she says, "He's not going to die...unfortunately for you."

Chapter 21

1. What does Stanley know about his great-grandfathers' experience of being stranded in the desert?
2. Compare Zero's behavior with the other boys'. Why do you think Zero finished digging Stanley's hole?

Chapter 22

1. Why does Zero say he dug Stanley's hole?
2. What arrangement do Stanley and Zero make?
3. What does Stanley discover about Zero?
4. What does Stanley realize about the gold tube and the initials on it?
5. Infer why Zero doesn't like answering questions.

Chapter 23

1. What was Green Lake like 110 years ago?
2. Who was Katherine Barlow? What was her specialty?
3. Who was Trout Walker? What kind of person was he?
4. Why was Trout surprised that Katherine said “no” to him?

Chapter 24

1. What is the condition of Mr. Sir’s face?
2. What happens when Mr. Sir fills Stanley’s canteen?
3. Explain Stanley’s response when he said, “Thank you, Mr. Sir” instead of speaking up about the water.

Chapter 25

1. What is Sam’s medical advice for any problem?
2. What agreement does Sam make with Katherine?
3. What happens between Katherine and Sam as the semester continues?
4. Explain Hattie Parker’s statement when she says “God will punish you”?

Chapter 26

1. What was the reaction of the town to the news of Katherine and Sam?
2. What does the sheriff want from Katherine?
3. Why does he tell her there will be a hanging?
4. What do Sam and Katherine do?
5. Compare Hattie Parker’s statement with the narrator’s question: “Whom did God punish?”
6. Trace the transformation of Miss Katherine into Kissin’ Kate Barlow. Infer what caused this transformation in her.

Chapter 27

1. What are the boys’ reactions to Zero digging part of Stanley’s hole?
2. What happens when Mr. Sir goes to fill Stanley’s canteen?
3. Describe what Stanley learns about Zero as he teaches him.

Chapter 28

1. Who does Kate Barlow encounter when she returns to Green Lake? What do they want?
2. What do they do to Kate?
3. Infer why Kate died laughing.

Chapter 29

1. What land formation has Stanley noticed on the horizon?
2. During a flash of lightning, what shape does he think he sees in the mountains?
3. What family story does Stanley remember?
4. Do you think the rock formation Stanley sees is the same one his great-grandfather found? Why or why not?

Chapter 30

1. How does Stanley feel about Zero digging his hole for him?
2. What does Zigzag do when the boys are digging?
3. What is Mr. Pendanski's role in the fight?
4. What is the Warden's reaction to the news that Stanley is teaching Zero to read? What happens because of that?
5. Trace the important events leading up to Zero's escape.
6. Explain the Warden's statement: "It's almost time for me to paint my nails again."

Chapter 31

1. Why is Stanley angry at himself?
2. Who was waiting for Stanley at his tent? What did they want?
3. What does the Warden tell Mr. Pendanski to do? Why does the Warden want to do that?
4. Devise a plan of action for Stanley at this point in the novel.

Chapter 32

1. What thought keeps haunting Stanley?
2. What does Stanley do?
3. As he starts out across the desert, what happens?
4. Where does Stanley go?
5. Justify Stanley's decision to go after Zero.

Chapter 33

1. What is Stanley's plan?
2. Stanley sees something scary in a hole. What does he see?
3. Assess Stanley's options at this point. What do you think Stanley should do?

Chapter 34

1. What is a mirage? Have you ever seen a mirage? Tell about it.
2. How does Stanley interpret the mountain and the fist and thumb?
3. What else does he see on the lakebed? What is it really? What does he find there?
4. What is the significance of his find?
5. Contrast how Stanley feels at the beginning of the chapter with how he probably feels at the end.

Chapter 35

1. What has Zero been drinking to stay alive? What is the concoction and where did it come from originally?
2. What is Zero's reaction to Stanley's idea of taking him back to the camp?
3. What does the sploosh do to Zero? What can you infer is the reason it does this to him?
4. What does Zero think the mountains look like?
5. Evaluate the boys' decision at the end of the chapter. Did they make the right decision? Why or why not?

Chapter 36

1. What do the boys do to pass time and distract themselves as they walk along?
2. What scares Stanley about death?
3. How does Zero help Stanley climb?
4. What does the Big Thumb look like to Stanley?
5. Infer why Stanley and Zero are so focused on reaching Big Thumb.

Chapter 37

1. Why is Stanley worried when they are nearly at the mountain?
2. What does Stanley realize about the weeds and bugs?
3. What happens to Zero?
4. Why do you think Stanley tells Zero he's ordered him a hot fudge sundae?

Chapter 38

1. Where does Stanley find the energy to keep going?
2. What does Stanley realize when he's lying in the mud?
3. Defend why Stanley tells Zero that the onion is a hot fudge sundae.

Chapter 39

1. Why doesn't Stanley return to the bottom of the hill to retrieve the shovel?
2. What does Zero confess to Stanley?
3. What does Stanley do while Zero sleeps?
4. Appraise Stanley's behavior when he thinks, "Tag, you're it" when he touched the precipice.

Chapter 40

1. What does Mrs. Tennyson tell Sam?
2. What is Sam's reaction to the news?
3. What happens over the next two days?
4. What does Stanley realize when he goes back down the mountain to get the shovel?
5. Interpret how the flashback about the onions helps the reader understand the story better.

Chapter 41

1. What was Zero's life like as he was growing up?
2. How did he manage to steal Clyde Livingston's shoes?
3. Why does Zero say he should have kept the shoes?
4. Appraise Zero's statement about keeping the sneakers. Would they both be better off if Zero had kept the shoes?

Chapter 42

1. How has Stanley adjusted to a diet of onions?
2. Why does Stanley wonder if he is delirious?
3. What changes have occurred in Stanley that cause him to like himself?
4. Look up the words *destiny* and *coincidence* in the dictionary. What difference do you notice in the meaning of the two words? Why does Stanley come to the conclusion that the shoes falling from the overpass was *destiny*?
5. Hypothesize Stanley's crazy idea.

Chapter 43

1. What was the boys' plan for returning to camp?
2. What is the challenge between the boys as they travel through the desert?
3. What happened to Zero's mother?
4. What happens as the boys get close to camp? How do they make sure they are not spotted by the campers?
5. Predict why Stanley feels terror when he returns to camp.

Chapter 44

1. What happens as Stanley begins digging?
2. What difficulty does he have?
3. What has Stanley found?
4. What happens when they unearth the box?
5. Make a prediction about what is in the suitcase.

Chapter 45

1. What stops the Warden from moving toward the boys?
2. Where is Zero? Where is Stanley? Where are the lizards?
3. Infer what the Warden means when she says, "It won't be long now"?

Chapter 46

1. What do the boys learn as they listen to the Warden and counselors talk?
2. What does Stanley imagine as he's waiting?
3. What does the Warden have the counselors do?
4. Stanley recalls a special memory as he's waiting. Create your own special memory that you would recall if you were Stanley.

Chapter 47

1. Why does Mr. Sir say "Not hungry, huh?"
2. Who arrives at the camp?
3. What does the Warden say the boys have done?
4. What does Stanley finally do?
5. What do the lizards do?
6. What is printed on the suitcase? What conclusion can you draw from this?
7. Conclude what you think the Warden is feeling right now.

Chapter 48

1. What does the Warden try to make Stanley do?
2. Why won't Stanley leave the camp with his lawyer?
3. How do the boys from Group D react to Stanley and Zero?
4. Why does Ms. Morengo also take Zero?
5. Categorize Ms. Morengo's qualities and how they help her as a lawyer.

Chapter 49

1. Why don't the lizards bite Stanley and Zero?
2. What kind of lawyer is Ms. Morengo?
3. What has Stanley's father invented?
4. What happens over Camp Green Lake? What can you infer from this?

Chapter 50

1. What happened to Camp Green Lake?
2. What was in the suitcase?
3. What was the commercial they were all about to watch?
4. Who is sitting with Hector?
5. Argue why the book ends with the song.