

Holes by Louis Sachar: Teacher Pages

Subject:

Language Arts

By Deb Flaughner Primary
Subject – Language Arts
Grade Level – 3-6

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #1 Pages:9-10

Summary: This chapter describes Camp Green Lake

Discuss these questions:

What is Camp Green Lake like? (hot, dry, flat, wasteland) What is the town of Green Lake like? (there is no town, all the people left) What is the rule to remember about snakes and scorpions? (If you don't bother them, they won't bother you) What's the worst thing to be bitten by? (Yellow spotted lizard, a slow painful death.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Write a description of Camp Green Lake, use as many details as you can.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING/BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #2 Pages:11

Summary: (very brief)

Discuss these questions: Who goes to Camp Green Lake? (bad boys) What do they do there? (dig holes in the hot sun) Was Stanley Yelnats made to go to Camp Green Lake? (No, he was given a choice, and chose it because he thought it was a real camp.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #3 Pages:12-17

Summary: Stanley takes the bus ride to Camp, and makes the best of the situation. Stanley is described, and so is his life in school, his family life, his family curse and bad luck.

Discuss these questions: What does Stanley look like? (Overweight) Why did Stanley's great-great Grandfather have a curse on him? (He stole a pig from a one legged gypsy.) Does Stanley believe in curses and bad luck? (Yes and no. He says he doesn't, but he blames everything bad on the curse and bad luck.) Who did Stanley's family blame for everything that went wrong? (The great great grandfather.) What is unusual about Stanley's name? (It is the same spelled forward and backward: Stanley Yelnats) What did Stanley's father do? (He was an inventor) Even though Stanley's family had bad luck, how did they act? (Hopeful) Stanley's great great grandfather was robbed by a famous outlaw, who was it? (Kissing Kate Barlow)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Even though Stanley's family had bad luck, they remained hopeful. How can YOU have hope even though you're at Arrowhead Ranch? Write one good paragraph with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #4 Pages:18-23

Summary: Stanley gets off the bus, meets the guard and is thirsty, but the guard and bus driver won't share the cold drinks. Stanley needs to strip, and get his jumpsuit, his canteen, and a cap with a cloth sewn on the back. His assignment is to dig a 5' hole every day, but no one will guard him. If he finds anything interesting he should report it, if the Warden likes it, he will get a day off. He is warned about lizards and told he will always be thirsty.

Discuss these questions: Why did Mr. Sir eat sunflower seeds? (He had quit smoking and did this instead.) How many bags of sunflower seeds does he eat a week? (1 large bag) How many sets of clothing is Stanley given? (2) What color is the clothing? (Orange) Why don't they need fences to keep the bad boys in? (There is no water for 100 miles, there is no place they could go.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: We have met the main character Stanley. How are YOU like him? How are YOU different from him? Write one paragraph about how you are like him, and write a second paragraph about how you are different.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #5 Pages:24-29

Summary: Stanley sees the tents numbered A-F. Stanley is in tent D. He meets Mr. Pedanski, a counselor. He is warned about the warden, he meets the other boys. He finds out that Lewis is in the hospital, and learns that Lewis' nickname is BarfBag. Stanley gets BarfBag's old bed.

Discuss these questions: What tent is Stanley in? (D) How did Mr. Pendanski say to remember his name? (Pen – dance – key) What is Mr. Pendanski's nickname? (MOM) Why do the boys call Mr. Pendanski that name? (He cares so much)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Write a paragraph telling each of the other boys' names and nicknames, and a description of each one.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #6 Pages: 30- 36

Summary: Stanley showers, has dinner and goes to bed. Stanley tells the others about stealing Sweet Feet's sneakers. The story of how Stanley really got the sneakers is explained.

Discuss these questions: What sport did Clyde "Sweet Feet" Livingston play? (baseball) How did "Sweet Feet" get that nickname? (by stealing many bases) How did Stanley get "Sweet Feet's" sneakers? (they fell from the sky when he was walking under an underpass) What was unusual about the sneakers? (They smelled very bad) Who was supposed to have these sneakers? (a shelter for homeless people, they were going to auction them off to raise money for the shelter.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Was Stanley's problem bad luck, destiny, or the fault of the curse on his great great grandfather, and why?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #7 Pages: 37-56

Summary: Stanley was woken very early, before sunrise to go start digging. Xray had his own shovel. The lake bed was full of holes. Mr. Pendanski told them that Mr. Sir will come with a water truck, and if they find anything interesting they should turn it in and if the Warden likes it they get the rest of the day off. They tell the story of Stanley's great great grandfather and his love for a pretty (but stupid) girl named Myra in Latvia. Another man called Igor also loved her and brought a fat pig to her father for Myra. Elya Yelnats got advice from Madame Zeroni who told him to carry a piglet every day up to a mountain to a certain stream, and sing a certain song to it. On Myra's 15th birthday, Elya was to carry Madame Zeroni up the mountain and sing to her, or his family would be cursed. Elya did it, except on the last day he bathed and brought the pig to Myra's father, who said both pigs were the same. Myra couldn't decide between the two men, so she had them pick a number. Elya gave the pig and went to America as a deck hand. He never did carry Madame Zeroni up the mountain, and remembered it later. Elya met and married a woman in America, and they translated the song into English. Stanley finished his first hole with difficulty. Zero was the smallest boy but he finished first.

Discuss these questions: "You're not in the Girl Scouts".what does this really mean? (It means it isn't easy here.) How did carrying the pig help the great great grandfather? (It made him stronger) How is sweating good for you? (It cools you off) Where do the boys go to the restroom when they are digging? (In a hole) What do the boys always do when they finish digging a hole? (Spit in it)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: How is Stanley's work and his great great grandfather's carrying the pig similar kinds of work? VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #8 Pages:57-58

Summary: Description of yellow spotted lizard

----- Date:

_____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: # 9 Pages: 59-64

Summary: Stanley showers in the cold shower, only briefly, and enjoys it. He goes to the WRECK room and notices how shabby and poor the conditions are. He begins to write a letter to his Mom as if it were a real camp. He trips over a boy they call "Caveman", but then learns that really the rest of the boys have nicknamed him "Caveman".

Discuss these questions: Why did Stanley like the cold, short shower? (He was so hot and tired it felt good) Why did the door to the recreation room say WRECK room? (Because the room was a wreck, a mess.) (It's a joke, on RECREATION room) Why did Xray say that digging a hole is fun? (Because most guys have always wanted to dig a deep hole.) Why did Stanley's letter to his Mom make it sound like a real camp? (So she wouldn't worry about him) What letter did "Sweet Feet's" shoes have on them? (a red "X")

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why is "Caveman" a good nickname for Stanley?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: # 10 Pages: 65 – 69

Summary: Stanley woke up very achy, and was sore while digging the next hole. He had learned not to dump the dirt too close to the opening. As he was digging he found something. He thought it was a rock or a fossil. He gave it to Mr. Pedanski, but they said it wasn't interesting enough.

Discuss these questions: Why was Stanley so achy? (From all the digging the day before) Before the sun came up, Stanley didn't wear his hat. Why did he HAVE to put it on after the sun came up? (To protect against more sunburn) Why did the hat have a cloth sewn on the back of it? (To protect his neck from sunburn)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Mr. Pendanski said that the warden wasn't interested in rocks or fossils. What do you think the warden would be interested in if the boys dug it up? Guess why you think they have to dig holes and look for things!

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: # 11 Pages: 70 – 73

Summary: Xray asks Stanley to let him know first if he finds anything else. Xray admits that he doesn't see very well, and can't find anything. He says it isn't fair that a new boy should find things and get a day off. Stanley thought it was interesting that a small boy like Xray would be a leader of the group. He decided that he was happy with his nickname, Caveman. As he dug more, he imagined getting revenge on his old school's bully.

Discuss these questions: Does Xray see very well? (No) Why does Xray want to have Stanley tell him first if he finds anything? (So Xray will get the day off.) Does the biggest boy usually become the leader? What kind of boy usually becomes the leader (Many answers are possible) Why does Stanley like the name Caveman? (It shows the others accept him) Who is the biggest boy in the group now? (Stanley) X-Ray is pig-Latin for what name? (Rex)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

How did it help Stanley to imagine getting revenge on the bully?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: # 12 Pages: 74-78

Summary: Again, Stanley was the last to finish. He finds everyone else in a circle discussing their lives. Mr. Pendanski says that you can accomplish anything if you set your mind to it. Mr. Pendanski tries to get Stanley to take responsibility for his trouble, but Stanley blames his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. When they talk about what Zero wants to do, he says he just wants to dig holes.

Questions to discuss:

What thing did Stanley think he wanted to do with his life? (F.B.I.) What does Magnet want to do? (Animal trainer, vet) This was the first time Stanley saw Zero do what? (Smile)

Possible thing to write about in journal:

Why is Mr. Pendanski asking these questions? What is he trying to get the boys to think about?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #13 Pages: 79-84

Summary: Stanley was getting tougher, it didn't hurt so much to dig holes. He saw something glisten in the dirt, it was a gold tube, engraved with an outline of a heart and the letters KB on it. He tried to think of some way out of giving it to X-Ray, but Zigzag saw him and he had to tell. They thought it was probably a shotgun shell, and Stanley suggested that X-Ray wait until the next day to tell about it so he'd get a whole day off. When the water truck came, Stanley got to move up a place in line.

Discuss these questions: How was this object described? (gold tube, about as long and as wide as the second finger on your right hand.open on one end and closed on the other.) How long had Stanley been at Camp Green Lake? (2 weeks) Who was it who thought the object looked like a shotgun shell? (Squid) Why did Stanley get to move up in line? (He had helped X-Ray)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Stanley was trying to decide whether to help X-Ray or be selfish. Then, he was discovered before he could decide. Why should he have been selfish? Why should he have given the object to X-Ray?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING/BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #14 Pages: 85-89

Summary: The next morning, X-Ray snaps at Stanley, and won't talk with him. X-Ray claims to have found the object, and shortly afterward the warden comes. The warden is a woman, she has Mr. Pendanski drive X-Ray back to camp, and she orders Mr. Pendanski to refill the canteens.

Discuss these questions: Why do you think X-Ray is so crabby that morning? (Maybe he feels guilty about what he is going to do.) What time of day is it when X-Ray claims to find the object? (Right after sunrise, when the water truck first comes) What does the Warden look like? Tall woman with red hair, wearing a cowboy hat and black cowboy boots with turquoise stones, lots of freckles, red fingernails.) What is the Warden like? (She rewards X-Ray generously, she is very demanding with Mr. Pendanski, she is very bossy, she is sarcastic)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

The Warden obviously is interested in the object. Write a paragraph predicting what the object is and why she is interested.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #15 Pages: 90-93

Summary: The Warden inspected the dirtpile she thought the object had come from, then she has the rest of the boys dig twice to inspect the dirt. She stays around inspecting everything they do, and the boys have to dig larger holes and carry away the dirt.

Discuss these questions The boys aren't just digging to build character, they are digging for a reason, what is it? (They are digging because the Warden wants to look for something that is buried.) Stanley thinks that X-Ray was crabby because of what? (Because maybe there was a hidden camera or microphone and the warden was listening.) Were they ever thirsty that day? (No, their canteens were kept full.) Why did the boys think that the Warden knew all their names? (They thought she had cameras or microphones hidden around) Were the boys digging the right place to find more objects? (No, the object had been found the day before in another area.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Write why you think Stanley is going to try to remember exactly where his hole had been the day before.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #16 Pages: 94-97

Summary: That night, X-Ray is in a good mood, and he treats Stanley well. The next day, they dig more. By lunch time the Warden is impatient because they haven't found any more interesting objects. They have to work faster. Stanley thinks he should tell where the object really was. That night, Stanley gets a letter from his mother, and Zero asks about it, and doesn't seem to understand what Stanley says.

Discuss these questions Why does X-Ray treat Stanley better that night? (He is happy because he got the day off) Why does Stanley push the wheelbarrow instead of digging? (Because he is such a slow

digger) Does Stanley's mother know how Camp Green Lake is? (No, she thinks it is more like a real camp / or maybe she does and is hiding it too.) What news does Stanley's mother have in the letter? (Stanley's dad is close to a breakthrough on his smelly sneaker project.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Do you think that Stanley's mother really knows it is a bad place? Tell why you think the way you do.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #17 Pages: 99-101

Summary: The boys have to keep digging around the area for a week and a half, and the Warden becomes more and more impatient about finding something. She jabs at Armpit and it bleeds. Stanley gets hurt when Zigzag's shovel accidentally hits his head, but he has to keep working. Zigzag makes him lift the dirt that had been in his shovel when he was hurt.

Discuss these questions What does the Warden hurt Armpit with? (A pitchfork) Where is Stanley hurt? (He has a gash on the side of his neck, below his ear)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: What should you do if a friend is gashed like Stanley was? (What is the proper thing to do?)

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #18 Pages: 102-105

Summary: The next day they dig regular holes in another part of the lakebed. Stanley hurts from his injury, but his muscles are stronger now. That night he begins to write to his mother, and Zero comes in and watches him. Zero admits that he can't read or write, and he wants Stanley to teach him. Stanley says that he can't teach, because he is too tired.

Discuss these questions

What could be causing Stanley's head to throb? (Infection, concussion) Stanley thinks he needs to save his energy for the people who "counted". what does that mean? (It means he doesn't think that Zero is worthwhile, that X-Ray is more important because X-Ray is the leader, etc.) Zero says that Stanley doesn't need to teach him to write, only to read. why? (Zero has no one to write to)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Stanley writes his mother that the hard work is building character. Is it? (Stanley is becoming stronger, he is learning to work hard, he is learning responsibility, but it probably isn't helping him become a better person.)

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #19 Pages: 106-112

Summary: Stanley hears Squid cry at night, but Squid denies it the next morning. Stanley realizes they are all dangerous boys, and he keeps quiet. That day, Magnet steals Mr. Sir's sunflower seeds, and they spill in Stanley's hole. When Mr. Sir comes back, Stanley takes the blame for stealing the sack of sunflower seeds. Mr. Sir drives him to go to see the Warden.

Discuss these questions Stanley wonders why there weren't any more racial tensions. What race is each boy? (X-Ray, Armpit & Zero are black, Stanley, Squid & Zigzag are white, and Magnet is hispanic.) What does Stanley mean when he says that they were all the same: reddish brown? (They are all the color of the dirt they dig in all day) Why is Magnet's nickname Magnet? (because he is a thief, a pickpocket, his hands are like magnets.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Why did Stanley take the blame for stealing the sunflower seeds? Is he really just trying to take care of himself? Explain.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #20 Pages: 112-116

Summary: Mr. Sir takes Stanley to see the Warden, and Stanley enjoys the air-conditioning. When he tells his story, the Warden sends him to get a flowered case, and she shows him nail polish inside that she says is poisoned with rattlesnake venom, and she scratches Mr. Sir, and sends Stanley back to keep digging.

Discuss these questions Why does Stanley feel like a condemned man at first? (He is going to the Warden, and everyone has warned him to stay away from her.) When is the nail polish supposed to be harmful? (when it is wet) When her nail touches Stanley's wound, how does it feel? (It tingles and hurts) Why does she hurt Mr. Sir? (Because she doesn't care about his sunflower seeds and she doesn't want him to bother her.) How is Stanley supposed to get back to the holes? (Walk)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Do you think the nail polish is really poisonous? Explain why or why not.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #21 Pages: 117 -119

Summary: Stanley walks back to the holes and thinks about his great grandfather who was robbed by Kissing Kate, and who survived by living on God's thumb. When he got back, his hole was nearly finished. and Zero's hole was smaller than the others.

Discuss these questions Why do you think the author is telling us about Stanley's family? (Many ideas) How did Stanley's great grandfather survive? (by finding refuge on God's thumb) Who had rescued him? (rattlesnake hunters) Was he crazy? (Stanley thought he might have been) Why had someone worked on Stanley's hole? (Because he took the blame for the sunflower seeds, someone had dug his hole for him.) Who do you think dug the hole? Why? (Zero, because his hole was smallest, and he was usually the first one done.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why didn't Stanley tell them about the poison fingernail polish? Explain your ideas.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #22 Pages: 120-126

Summary: Stanley was done first, and that night he asked Zero why he had done it. Zero said it was because Stanley hadn't stolen the sunflower seeds or the sneakers. Stanley offers to teach Zero to read. He teaches him the alphabet, then begins the letters one at a time. He is amazed at how Zero can figure things out quickly. Zero offers to continue to dig some of Stanley's hole each day. Stanley realizes that the object he found was a lipstick tube, with the same initials on it as Kate Barlow.

Discuss these questions How do you think Zero knew that Stanley hadn't stole the sneakers? (He figured things out, he saw that Stanley wasn't that kind of guy) Who was Kate Barlow? (The Kissing Bandit who robbed Stanley's great grandfather and left him in the desert)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Describe how Stanley and Zero will be helping each other.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #23 Pages: 127-130

Summary: Description of the history of Green Lake: 110 years ago it was a lake, picnics were held there on the 4th of July, Kate Barlow always won prizes for her spiced peaches which was "food for the angels". She was the town's school teacher, and she was loved by Trout Walker (his feet smelled like fish) who was loud and stupid. Trout wanted to take her for a boat ride, but she wasn't interested.

Discuss these questions What person in Stanley's time also had a foot fungus that made his feet stink? ("Sweet Feet" Livingston) What other person in our story is concerned with smelly feet? (Stanley's dad, who wants to invent a cure.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: When Trout Walker was angry with Kate Barlow, he said "No one ever says no to Trout Walker!" How do you think the lipstick tube with the KB got where it was found by Stanley?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #24 Pages: 131-134

Summary: When Stanley woke the next morning, he saw Mr. Sir's face, all swollen and purple. When Mr. Sir came with the water truck that afternoon, he poured the water next to Stanley's canteen, not in it.

Discuss these questions What caused Mr. Sir's swelling? (The poison fingernail polish) What happened to a boy who asked about it? (He was roughed up by Mr. Sir) Why didn't Stanley let Zero dig his hole? (He wanted to stay busy) Why did Mr. Sir pour out Stanley's water? (He was mad at Stanley because the whole sunflower seed incident is what had made the Warden scratch him.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

If you were Stanley, and if you wrote in a journal about what you did every day, write about this day:
“Dear Diary, today when I woke up and went to breakfast, I saw Mr. Sir’s face. .”

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #25 Pages: 135-140

Summary: More History about Green Lake: Sick people in town would see Dr. Hawthorne or Sam the onion man. Sam the onion man told everyone to eat onions, that onions would cure whatever was wrong with them. Sam would fix things for Kate Barlow in exchange for her spiced peaches. She fell in love with him, and they kissed in the rain, (which was not acceptable in those days.)

Discuss these questions What was Sam the onion man’s donkey’s name? (Mary Lou) How old was the donkey supposed to be? (50) What things were onions supposed to cure? (baldness, digestion, liver, stomach, heart, brain, etc.) Why did Kate Barlow keep asking Sam to fix things? (So she could be near him) We learned that kissing someone in public wasn’t acceptable a hundred years ago. We also know that it wasn’t acceptable for a white woman to kiss a black man. How do we know that Sam the onion man was black? (DARK fingers, page 136 .Negro 138)

Possible things for them to write in their journals:

List three other things that are acceptable today, that didn’t used to be acceptable years ago. Check with others to make sure that those things really are acceptable!

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #26 Pages: 141-145

Summary: Trout Walker led people to the school house and called Kate Barlow a “Devil Woman” for having kissed Sam in public. She ran to the sheriff who was a drunk, and no help at all. Trout Walker caught Kate and Sam on the lake where Kate was rescued, but Trout and Sam were killed. Then Kate killed the sheriff and kissed him, which is how she became Kate Barlow, the Kissing Bandit.

Discuss these questions Why didn’t children go to school that day? (Their parents wouldn’t let them because of what Kate had done.) What did the people do to the school house? (Burned it) Trout Walker led the people against Kate, but also had them burn the books, why do you think he did that? (To get back at her, because he was stupid, and jealous of people who could read.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

The sheriff had predicted that God would punish Kate Barlow, but who was punished, and why?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #27 Pages: 146-150

Summary: Stanley continued digging, Zero would help him with his holes. Mr. Sir’s scratches were beginning to heal. When Mr. Sir secretly filled Stanley’s canteen, Stanley then poured it out. Stanley had taught Zero all the alphabet letters, and how to spell his name. Zero said his real name was Hector

Zeroni.

Discuss these questions Why did Stanley pour out the canteen of water? (He wasn't sure what awful stuff Mr. Sir had put in there, and was so thirsty he was afraid he would drink it.) Why did they call Hector Zero? (His last name was Zeroni) Where have we heard the name Zeroni before? (Chapter 7)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: What is the connection between the two people named Zeroni?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #28 Pages: 151-155

Summary: After 20 years of being the Kissing Bandit, Kate Barlow returned to Green Lake. Most of the lake had dried up. Trout Walker found her and tried to rob her of the riches she had stole through the years. They decided that Kate had buried the riches in the lake bed. They tried to torture her, but she never told them where it was.

Discuss these questions Where did Kate Barlow live when she returned to the area? (A little log cabin on what used to be the edge of the lake, with 2 trees by it, possibly the Warden's cabin?) Who had married Trout Walker? (Linda, a former student of Kate's) How did they figure out that she had buried the treasure? (It was the shovel in her cabin) What killed Kate Barlow? (A spotted lizard) What were Kate Barlow's last words? (Start digging)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

There is another connection in this story from the past that connects it to something in Stanley's time. boots. Find the connection and explain the two people and what the connection is.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #29 (PART TWO: THE LAST HOLE) Pages: 159 – 161

Summary: It was hot and humid, a storm was on the way. Stanley looked at the sky and the mountains. One rock formation looked like a fist with a thumb sticking up. The thumb of God? Stanley thought of the story of his great grandfather having survived on the thumb of God.

Discuss these questions: How can you tell how far away a storm is? (Count the seconds between the lightning flash and the thunder, that's how far it is.) Why did the boys want it to rain? (They were hot and thirsty) What did Stanley's great grandfather say about how he survived? (Nothing, he just blamed his no-good-pig-stealing-father)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

What would you do if you were in the desert for many days without water? How would you survive? What would you do, and what would you be careful NOT to do?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #30 Pages: 162-174

Summary: It was Zigzag's birthday, July 8th, and Mr. Sir gave him an extra carton of orange juice. Stanley thought about Kate Barlow and her lipstick tube, and the thumb of God in the mountains. The other boys gave Stanley a hard time about Zero digging his hole, and they begin pushing each other. Zigzag jumps Stanley, who doesn't fight back, but Zero chokes Zigzag. Mr. Pendanski fires his gun, others come running. It comes out about Stanley teaching Zero, and the adults say it's no use teaching Zero to read, he is too stupid. Zero hits Mr. Pendanski with the shovel and leaves. The adults guard the "camp" for Zero to come back, and the Warden talks about repainting her fingernails, and she still wants 7 holes from the 6 boys.

Discuss these questions Why does Zero fight off Zigzag? (He is protecting his teacher) Why do the adults think Zero is stupid? (He can't read) Is Zero stupid? (No, he is the best at math, and he is learning reading well) Why don't the adults stop Zero from leaving? (There is no place to go) How long can Zero survive in the desert without food or water? (A few days at the most)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Sometimes when a person like Zero gets mad, he doesn't know how to say what he feels, so he hits and fights. Write down how you could teach Zero how to use his words instead of fighting and hitting.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #31 Pages: 175-179

Summary: Stanley was angry at himself, and he dug Zero's hole. He wanted to go after Zero but he didn't do it. He tried to think of a plan. Zero didn't come back, and the Warden and others asked if anyone would miss Zero. He was a ward of the state, so they just decided to destroy all the records they had on him.

Discuss these questions What did Stanley wish that Zero would do? (Find God's thumb) What did Stanley think was on God's thumb? (Water) Why did the guards and Warden ask about Zero's family? (They wanted to know if anyone would miss him) Did Zero have any family? (No, no one) Why did they decide to erase all records of Zero? (So that if he died, they could deny ever having him at the camp.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why should Stanley tell the Warden about where the lipstick really was found? Why shouldn't he tell her?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #32 Pages: 180-184

Summary: A New Kid was assigned to their group. He always fidgeted, so they nicknamed him Twitch. Stanley was worried about Zero, and thought about him suffering. The next day, when the water truck came around, he stole the truck. It fell into a hole, the airbag went off, and ran away. His canteen was empty.

Discuss these questions What did Twitch claim he could do? (hot wire a car & disconnect the alarm in less than a minute.) Why did Stanley steal the truck? (He thought he could drive away and find Zero.)

Why didn't the truck go at first? (It wasn't in gear) After the crash, why did he run? (He saw Mr. Sir staring at him)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why couldn't he blame his no-good-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather for this ?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #33 Pages: 185-187

Summary: Stanley walked toward where he thought the big thumb would be. He passed many holes, and he looked in them. He saw yellow spotted lizards. He found an empty sunflower seed sack with one seed.

Discuss these questions Near the camp, the holes were dug in a system. How were they dug far from camp? (In a haphazard way, no system) Stanley looked in holes, afraid for what he might see, what might he see? (Zero's body) When he found the one sunflower seed, what did he think? (Lunch)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

What is Stanley's plan now?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #34 Pages: 188-191

Summary: Stanley saw a pool of water, or so he thought. He saw the thumb, and he walked toward a large object. It was a boat, upside down, called the Mary Lou. On the side a tunnel went down. He yelled, and someone yelled back, then an arm with a orange sleeve came out.

Discuss these questions It wasn't a pool of water Stanley saw, what was it? (a mirage) The boat was called the Mary Lou. Where else in the story have we heard that name? (Sam the onion man's donkey) Who in this story wears orange? (The boys at Camp Green Lake)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

If the boat is named the Mary Lou, whose boat would it be? Predict how the story ends.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #35 Pages: 192-198

Summary: Zero doesn't look good, he is in bad shape. Zero has been living on sploosh under the boat in a tunnel, sploosh tastes of peaches. Zero says he won't go back to camp, and he won't dig any more holes. Stanley shows Zero the mountain that looks like God's thumb.

Discuss these questions What words describe how Zero looks? (jack-o-lantern, half rotten, sunken eyes, drooping smile, weak, raspy, pale lips, floppy tongue) Why does Zero look like this? (Starvation,

dehydration) What do you think “sploosh” is? (The old canned spiced peaches) How old do you think the sploosh is? (over 100 years old) Why is Zero cramping so badly? (maybe the sploosh, maybe starvation)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

If you were Stanley, what would you do now?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #36 Pages: 199-207

Summary: They pack some unbroken jars in the sack, and head toward the Big Thumb. Zero used the shovel to help him walk. Stanley thought of what he may also need the shovel for. While they walked, Zero asked Stanley to give him some words. Stanley wondered about death and his parents. They came to the edge of the dry lake, and came to cliffs. They helped each other up the big cliffs. Stanley boosted Zero up, and Zero held out the shovel to pull Stanley up. Zero’s hands were bleeding from holding the shovel.

Discuss these questions Why did Zero need the shovel to walk? (He was too weak, he used it like a crutch) What might Stanley need the shovel for? (To bury Zero when he dies) When Zero asked for words, what did he want? (He wanted Stanley to give him the letters that spell easy words, like F-U-N) Why did that help? (It kept their minds off of their pain)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

How did they remain hopeful even when things were bad?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #37 Pages: 208-210

Summary: Stanley becomes worried because they are really almost there, and he isn’t sure there will be anything to help them when they get there. They get excited in their climb because they realize there are weeds and bugs.

Discuss these questions Why are they excited about the weeds and bugs? (There has to be some water for weeds to grow and bugs to live) How long did it take Zero to figure out the word L-U-N-C-H? (15 minutes)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Pretend that you are Zero. What would you be thinking as you climbed with Stanley? OR Zero worked a long time to figure out one word. What can you learn from this?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #38 Pages: 211-214

Summary: Stanley picked Zero up and carried him up. He smelled something, then he slipped and fell in a muddy place. He dug in the mud and drank, then he scooped out water for Zero. He found a smooth round object in the mud, it was an onion. He ate it and shared it with Zero.

Discuss these questions What happened to the sack and the shovel? (He left them behind) Is muddy water good to drink? (No, but it is better than no water at all) What did he tell Zero the $\frac{1}{2}$ onion was? (A hot fudge sundae) Why did he say that? (because they were talking about food, and this was food)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Have you ever been very hungry, and when you could eat anything it tasted wonderful? Describe this.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #39 Pages: 215-218

Summary: When Stanley woke up, he saw he was in a meadow. Zero groaned, and it was hard for Stanley to talk. He planned to go down after the shovel to make their water hole bigger, but Zero wanted to tell him something. Zero said he had taken Clyde Livingston's shoes, then Zero relaxed and slept.

Discuss these questions What does a meadow look like? (Open flat land with weeds and grasses) Why was it hard for Stanley to talk? (His tongue was probably swollen and dry from dehydration) Stanley thinks that Zero's talk is delirium, what is that? (craziness from being close to dying)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

If you were close to dying, what important things would you like to say to someone?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #40 Pages: 219-224

Summary: Stanley discovers that the meadow is full of wild onions. It goes back to the story from the past of Sam the onion man, and how people felt that his onions cured their sick families. Stanley and Zero slept a lot, ate a lot of onions and grew stronger. Stanley didn't want to leave Zero to get the shovel. Finally Stanley went, and he was amazed how far he had carried Zero up the mountain.

Discuss these questions Years ago, what did people use leeches for? (To pull out "bad blood") Years ago, Sam the onion man sold people what? (onion tonic, onion juice) How could onions help Stanley and Zero? (Water, some nutrients)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: How could Stanley carry Zero so far?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #41 Pages: 225-228

Summary: Stanley dug the hole deeper, and didn't let Zero help. They were both starting to improve.

Zero told Stanley how he stole the shoes from the homeless shelter. He had no parents and was living on the streets. He just took the shoes because he needed them, he couldn't read the sign.

Discuss these questions How did Zero begin to steal? (His mother taught him) What do we know about Zero's mother? (She sold a lot of Girl Scout cookies) What did Zero do with the shoes? (He put them on, and walked out) Why did he take them off? (Everyone was talking about them, they smelled bad) Where did Zero put the shoes? (On top of a parked car) How did Zero get arrested? (Stealing new shoes the next day)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Do you think Zero really learned to steal from his mother? Do you think his mother really sold Girl Scout cookies? Where else have we heard about Girl Scouts in this story?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #42 Pages: 229-234

Summary: After about a week of living on onions, Stanley doesn't smell anything anymore. The boys are better, and Stanley feels happy. He thinks about his life, his and Zero's punishments, possibly living as a fugitive, and possibly looking for buried treasure.

Discuss these questions Why doesn't Stanley smell anything any more? (He has gotten used to onions) Stanley and Zero are connected by the crime of stealing Livingston's shoes. Who did the crime, and who got punished for it? (Zero stole the shoes, but Stanley got punished for it) Stanley thought of living as a fugitive. What did he think about his parents? (he could call them, but he'd always be on the run.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Stanley thought that getting hit by the tennis shoes was fate or destiny, then he thought it was just a coincidence, now he thinks it is destiny again. What do you think?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #43 Pages: 235-246

Summary: Zero remembers having a home and a mother. The boys plan to go back, find the treasure, sneak some food, and get away. Stanley thinks of his parents, he is worried and scared. They go down, and they try not to drink water for as long as they can. Zero remembers his mother leaving him and his stuffed giraffe, and one day not coming back. He lived for a month in a tunnel of a playground in a park. Stanley begins to think more about his parents. Zero corrects Stanley about directions. They hid in a hole as they got close to camp, then when things got quiet they found the hole where Stanley had found the lipstick and went in.

Discuss these questions The lake bed, with the cliffs all around is described as what? (a fry pan) What color does Zero remember his room as being? (Yellow) When Zero's mother left him, what was he supposed to do? (Stay in a certain place, a porch, a block) What was Zero's stuffed giraffe's name? (Jaffy) What sad memory does Zero have about living in the park? (A child's birthday party when he was told to go away) What do the boys do before they go into the hole? (They check it to make sure nothing was in there.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Pretend that you are X-Ray, Zigzag, Magnet, Squid or Twitch; what do you think happened to Stanley and Zero?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #44 Pages: 247-253

Summary: Stanley listens to the sounds of the camp at night, then they go to the hole. Zero goes for water, and comes back with breakfast while Stanley digs. Stanley decides to dig wider instead of deeper because Kate Barlow wouldn't dig deeper. Finally, he hits something hard on the side wall of the hole, it is a metal box. He digs underneath it to free it. When it comes out they see it is a metal suitcase. As Stanley pulls it out of the hole, the Warden thanks him.

Discuss these questions What sounds did Stanley hear at night from the camp? (Showers, the squeaking Wreck Room door) What did Zero bring back for breakfast? (Sugar flakes cereal) How does it taste, and why? (Too sweet because they are used to onions) Why does Zero always go for water? Why doesn't he let Stanley go? (Because Stanley makes too much noise, because he is bigger) How big did the metal box appear to be? (8" tall, 2 feet wide, and as long as Stanley's arm)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

How do you think the Warden knew what they were doing?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #45 Pages: 254-256

Summary: A flashlight beam comes on and lights up Zero. Mr. Sir, Mr. Pendanski and the Warden are at the hole. They see a lizard on the suitcase, and then more lizards everywhere. The adults talk about having a body to give to the "woman". The Warden talks about having to dig holes to look for the treasure when she was a child.

Discuss these questions Why is the hole full of lizards? (It must be a lizard nest) When the adults talk about a body, whose body is it? (Probably Stanley's) Who made the Warden dig holes? (Her parents)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Who do you think the "woman" is that they talked about?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #46 Pages: 257 – 261

Summary: A lizard jumped at Mr. Pendanski, Mr. Sir shot it. Mr. Pendanski suggests shooting the boys, but the Warden says to wait, their story should be simple to the A.G. about Stanley being bit by a lizard. She said they would bury Zero in one of the holes. Stanley remains hopeful, and imagines a good memory. Mr. Sir said Stanley's lawyer came by and said he was innocent after all. The boys in the camp were waking up, the Warden told the counselors to tell the boys that they didn't have to dig today. Zero gave a thumbs up, and Stanley carefully leaned against the hole's wall.

Discuss these questions Why did Stanley and Zero have to be very still? (If they moved quickly, a lizard

might bite them) Why did Mr. Sir begin to smoke again? (Tension, he said he'd have nightmares) Why did the Warden say that they would bury Zero's body in a hole? (So they could hide it, no one would miss him) Why did they think they would have bodies? (They knew the lizards would bit the boys) What do you think "the woman" and A.G. mean? (Someone asking about Zero or Stanley) What does Stanley imagine? (When he and his mother fell in the snow and laughed) What does the Warden tell Mr. Sir to say is the punishment for boys who didn't do as they were told? (She said to let the boys use their imaginations) Why does Stanley need to lean on the wall of the hole? (He is tired from standing still so long)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Why can't Stanley understand about the lawyer saying that he was innocent after all?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #47 Pages: 262-268

Summary: When the sun came up, the lizards stayed low in the shade, but still on the boys. Zero said "Satan", then "Sa- tan- lee". A tarantula was eaten by one of the lizards. Stanley tried to get out but a lizard's claw on his ankle stopped him. Zero asked if Stanley's first name was the same as his last name, but backwards. Two strangers drove up, a man in a cowboy hat and a Hispanic woman. The woman threatened to file charges against Mrs. Walker and the Camp for child abuse and torture. The Warden said the kids stole the suitcase from her the night before, and were caught in the lizard nest. The man told Stanley not to say anything, but asked why Stanley wasn't released the day before. The Warden said Stanley had been hospitalized, he had been delirious and had been having hallucinations, and there had been no authorization from the Attorney General. Stanley slowly got out of the hole, the lizards went back in the shade. He pulled out Zero. Stanley was dizzy. The Warden tried to get the suitcase, but Zero wouldn't let her, it had Stanley Yelnats written on it.

Discuss these questions How many spots were on each lizard? (11) When Zero said "Satan" and "Sa-tan-lee" what was he figuring out? (Stanley's name, on the suitcase) What does A.G. stand for? (Attorney General)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Who is Mrs. Walker? Where have we heard that name before?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #48 Pages: 269-275

Summary: As they walked back to Camp, they found out that the man was the Texas Attorney General, and the woman was Stanley's lawyer, Ms. Morengo. They gave the boys orange juice and bagels. The Warden says that the suitcase has her things inside of it, and the adults argue about whether Stanley should open it. Then they give Stanley his things, and start to take him away, but Stanley won't leave Hector (Zero). The Warden can't find Zero's files. The other boys come in and are glad to see them, and Squid asks Stanley to tell his mom that he was sorry. They let Zero go because they can't find his records.

Discuss these questions Do the boys eat breakfast? (They drink the juice, but they don't eat) Do the lawyer and Attorney General believe the Warden's story about the suitcase? (No, they said that isn't what she first said) Why can't they find Zero's files? (The Warden had them destroyed when he ran

away.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Why did Squid (Alan) say for Stanley to call his mother and apologize?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #49 Pages: 276-279

Summary: (History) There never used to be lizards in the area, but there were red-eyed monsters. The men of the area who hunted rattlesnakes would get lizard juice from Sam the onion man to keep away the monsters. If the men would drink onion juice, it would keep the lizards away. On the ride back, the lady rolled down the windows, even though the air-conditioning was on. The lady explained how she figured out that Stanley was innocent, and how Stanley's dad had invented something for foot odor that smelled like peaches.

Discuss these questions Why would the onion juice help keep lizards away? (Smell) Why did they roll down the windows in the car? (Smell) How did the lady know that Stanley was innocent? (He was being beat up when the shoes were stolen) What kind of lawyer is she? (Patent Attorney, working with Stanley's dad) What began to happen for the first time in a hundred years? (Rain on the lake)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Why did it begin to rain for the first time in a hundred years? Give your ideas.

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____ Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #50 Pages: 283-288

Summary: (EPILOGUE) Stanley's mother says there was no curse, but it is strange that Stanley's dad invented the cure for foot odor on the day after Stanley carried Zero (the great-great-grandson of Madame Zeroni) up the mountain. Camp Green Lake was closed, and the Warden (Ms. Walker) sold the land to become a Girl Scout camp. Stanley's self confidence was better, the suitcase contained jewels that weren't worth very much, and some old papers that were worth a lot. Stanley bought his family a new house, and hired a private investigator. A year and a half later, they watched a commercial by Clyde "Sweet Feet" Livingston about Sploosh. Hector's mother sang a song to Hector she knew from her childhood.

Discuss these questions How did Stanley carrying Zero lift the curse? (The great-great-grandfather had forgotten to carry Madame Zeroni up the mountain, so the great-great-grandson did it to Madame Zeroni's great-great-grandson.) How much money did Stanley and Zero get? (Almost a million dollars each) Why did Stanley hire a private investigator? (To look for Zero's mother) Why do they call the foot deodorant "Sploosh"? (Because it was made from peaches, like the peaches Kate Barlow made, and the old peaches that Zero called Sploosh) How did Hector's mother know that song? (It was taught from parent to child, starting with her great-great-grandmother, Madame Zeroni)

Possible thing to write about in their journals: Write about all the different things that were connected in this book . the stories from Latvia, the stories from Texas 100 years ago, and what happened to Stanley and Zero. Include Ms. Walker, the Warden, who was she and how was she connected, too?

VOCABULARY: NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

E-Mail Deb Flaughter!