***Holes***

***Chapter 10***

***Summary And Analysis:***

***Summary(9-10):***

Chapter 9 focuses on Stanley's adjustment to life at Camp Green Lake, which isn't very pleasant. The boys have no recreation, since the "rec. hall," is really the "wreck room," where every piece of old equipment is broken. When Stanley comes into the room after digging his first hole, he trips over a kid he calls "The Lump." When "The Lump" moves threateningly toward Stanley, X-Ray and Armpit say, "Hey, you don't want to mess with The Caveman" and "The Caveman's cool." Stanley at first thinks that they're warning him to stay away from the Caveman, but then he realizes that the boys are referring to him and his new nickname, assigned to him because he had dug himself into his hole.

Stanley writes his mother a letter, again pretending that he's having a good time at this camp he jokingly refers to as "Camp Fun and Games," and as he's writing he sees Zero staring over his shoulder.

The following day is much like the first day, only digging his second hole is harder because his muscles are so sore and his hands are so blistered and bleeding. As he's digging, Stanley comes across a rock with a perfect fossil of a fish. Stanley is excited because he was told by Mr. Sir and Mr. Pendanski that if he ever found anything interesting while digging, he is supposed to report it and then he would win the rest of the day off.

Stanley reports his findings to Mr. Pendanski when he comes to deliver water. Stanley notices that the water line is always the same. X-Ray is always first, followed by Armpit, Squid, Zigzag, Magnet, and Zero. Stanley lines up behind Zero. Stanley shows Mr. Pendanski his "find," the cool rock with a fossilized fish, but he is disappointed to find out that the Warden is not interested in fossils and he will not get a day off. The boys, however, examine the rock, except for X-ray who can't see anything.

***Analysis(8-10):***

The focus on the deadly yellow-spotted lizards warns us that they will be important to the story and continued references to them throughout the novel foreshadow upcoming events.

The hierarchy of the boys - and the balance of power - is demonstrated in how the boys line up. X-Ray is the most powerful and Zero is last, until Stanley shows up and is put at the end, demonstrating that he has the least power of anyone. Stanley does have some acceptance, however, since the boys have given him a nickname.

Nothing is as it seems. X-Ray, a name that sounds as if it could see anything, is almost completely blind and even with thick glasses, he can't see much.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

When [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) wakes in the morning, he can barely get out of bed because he's so sore. He only gets up because he knows the rising sun is his sworn enemy. As he begins his second hole, he's careful to dump his dirt far away and tries to protect his raw hands with his cap. At one point, Stanley drops his shovel. As he reaches to pick it up, he notices a rock with a fossilized fish in it. Stanley hopes the [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden) will find the fossil interesting.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Stanley's conception of the sun as his sworn enemy suggests that he's beginning to develop the view that nature is something to be fought, not something that could help him. Notably, the Warden cultivates this view very carefully, and it will later come to light that this is because the Warden's entire family is positioned opposite characters who are aligned with nature.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) digs slowly as he waits for the water truck. When it arrives, he realizes that Group D always lines up in the same order: [X-Ray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/x-ray-rex) first, then [Armpit](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters), [Squid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters), [Zigzag](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zigzag-ricky), [Magnet](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters), [Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni), and finally Stanley. When [Mr. Pendanski](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-pendanski) fills Stanley's canteen, Stanley hands over the fossil and points out the fish. Mr. Pendanski agrees that it's interesting, but says the [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden) isn't interested in fossils. The other boys pass the fossil around and admire the fish.

***Analysis Part 2:***

The fact that the Warden isn't interested in objectively interesting fossils suggests that the Warden may be looking for something specific, regardless of what Mr. Pendanski and Mr. Sir told Stanley. This also suggests that finding things may be far more difficult than Stanley initially thought, given that it's unclear what they're even looking for.