***Holes***

***Chapter 14***

***Summary And Analysis:***

***Summary:***

The next morning, Stanley asks X-Ray if he has the object. X-Ray yells at Stanley to leave him alone and pretends he doesn't know what Stanley is talking about. While they are digging, X-Ray waits until the water truck has come to the holes before pretending to find the gold tube. Mr. Pendanski goes to inform the Warden of X-Ray's find. The Warden is a tall woman with red hair and freckles. She wears a cowboy hat and black cowboy boots studded with turquoise stones. She gives X-Ray the day off and orders Mr. Pendanski to fill the canteens for the boys again. When Mr. Pendanski says that he has just filled them the Warden, obviously angered, asks Stanley, calling him Caveman, if he has a full canteen. Since Stanley's canteen is not full the Warden tells Mr. Pendanski to fill them without questioning her authority.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

That night, [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) tries to figure out what he could've done differently. He decides he was absolutely in the right place at the right time, but it didn't help him at all. The next day at breakfast, he asks [X-Ray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/x-ray-rex) if he has the tube. X-Ray feigns ignorance and eventually snaps at Stanley. [Mr. Sir](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-sir) marches the boys to the lake a while later and as Stanley begins his hole, he can't figure out why X-Ray snapped at him. When the water truck arrives just after sunrise, Stanley notices the mountains in the distance before getting in line. Just as [Mr. Pendanski](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-pendanski) is about to drive away, X-Ray yells that he found something. Mr. Pendanski examines the tube and says the [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden) will like it. He encourages Rex to not dig too hard.

***Analysis Part 1:***

X-Ray's inexplicable behavior shows Stanley that even though he's been at camp for a few weeks, he's still the new guy and doesn't know everything. This then becomes another way for X-Ray to exert power over Stanley. When Stanley begins to notice the mountains in the distance, it suggests he's becoming more interested in or curious about the natural world around him. Per the logic of the novel, this could be in part because of the trajectory of destiny it sets out.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Mr. Pendanski](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-pendanski) drives back to camp and returns a short while later with a tall, red-haired woman. The [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden) approaches [X-Ray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/x-ray-rex), confirms where he found the tube, and tells Mr. Pendanski to drive X-Ray back to camp after filling the other campers' canteens. When Mr. Pendanski remarks that he just filled the canteens, the Warden softly reminds Mr. Pendanski that it's hot and "these fine boys" probably had a drink since he filled their canteens. She calls [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) to her, calling him Caveman, and asks if he's had anything to drink since Mr. Pendanski filled his canteen. Stanley has, and the Warden tells Mr. Pendanski to follow instructions or he'll end up digging and Caveman will fill canteens.

***Analysis Part 2:***

The Warden's behavior shows that her power over the camp is far greater than that of any other adult; she even has the ability to cow Mr. Pendanski. When she calls Stanley Caveman, it suggests that she's aware that the simple kindness of learning someone's name and using it is a valuable and powerful tool: in this case, it seems to scare Stanley a bit in part because it means that she's far more involved somehow in the camp than he gave her credit for. Essentially, it begs the question of how much she does or doesn't know about her charges.