***Holes***

***Chapter 19***

***Summary And Analysis:***

***Summary:***

One night Stanley wakes to hear Squid crying. The next morning Stanley asks Squid if he's okay and Squid reacts with anger, threatening to break Stanley's jaw if he opens his mouth again. Stanley doesn't talk to the other boys very much because he is afraid of making them angry. He is glad that there are no racial problems between them; even though Stanley, Squid, and Zigzag are white and X-Ray, Zero and Armpit are black, and Magnet is Hispanic, they are all the same color of dirt while they are digging. One day after Mr. Sir fills their canteens, Magnet steals his bag of sunflower seeds. When Magnet throws the bag to Stanley, the seeds drop into Stanley's hole and spill. Mr. Sir's truck returns and he catches Stanley with the bag of seeds. Stanley is again in the wrong place at the wrong time. Mr. Sir asks Stanley who stole them and Stanley takes the blame. Then Mr. Sir takes Stanley to the Warden.

***Analysis(17-19):***

These chapters demonstrate some of the most dramatic changes in Stanley's character. Stanley has toughened physically from digging holes every day. Those that he is surrounded by have forced him to change his character as well. The Warden displays new levels of cruelty in these chapters. Simply because the boys have not dug up what she is looking for she physically harms Armpit. Just as X- Ray's informal system of authority mirrors that of the Warden's, so the cruelty of the boys mirrors that of their counselors. This is demonstrated by the fact that Zigzag seems not to care when he seriously hurts Stanley with his shovel and Mr. Sir barely takes a few minutes to bandage Stanley up. All the cruelty surrounding Stanley effects him and he is mean to Zero even after he finds out that Zero cannot read. Although Stanley was previously surprised when he discovered that Zero had never even heard of Sesame Street, he does not question why this is the case, nor does he wonder why Zero cannot read. Stanley has learned that he must be wary of others and take care of himself, and this sometimes requires being mean to others. A more positive change that Stanley has undergone is a heightened sense of bravery. Even though Stanley did not steal the sunflower seeds he bravely says that he did. There are several motivations that Stanley might have for doing this. He might take the blame simply because he knows the other boys will not admit that they stole the seeds, but it is also possible that he accepts responsibility in order to spare the other boys. Either way, he knows he will face the Warden and although this is a terrifying thought, Stanley remains brave while he faces Mr. Sir.

***Detailed summary (17-19)***

The Warden loses interest in the digging project since nothing else has been found in the area where X-Ray supposedly found the gold tube. The Warden thinks that Squid and Armpit haven't been working hard enough because she comes to check on them while Armpit is on a bathroom break and she pokes him with her pitchfork. When the poking draws blood, she tells Mr. Pendanski that he's giving the boys too much water.

The boys have dug each of the three holes into one giant hole where they're all working together. Stanley is digging when Zigzag hits him on the side of the head with a shovel, giving him a big gash. Zigzag tells him that he isn't digging in the dirt that Stanley has already dug up. Mr. Sir bandages Stanley's wound with a torn piece of sunflower seed sack and tells him to go back to work. Zigzag again threatens Stanley and tells him that he can't put his dirt where Zigzag has to dig.

The camp routine gets back to normal and the boys are all taken to a different section of the camp where each one digs his own hole. Stanley notices that he's much stronger than when he came. Stanley's muscles don't hurt, his hands are tougher, and although he's still a slow digger, he's not much behind Magnet. Stanley continues to write his parents, pretending that Camp Green Lake is offering him "fun and games." Zero watches him write and when Stanley tells him he doesn't like it when he reads over his shoulder, Zero replies that he can't read and asks Stanley to teach him. Zero explains that he doesn't have to teach him to write since he has no one to write to, just to read, but Stanley says no.

Stanley finds Squid crying one night, but Squid denies anything is wrong. For the most part, Stanley keeps to himself because he recognizes that while he's getting along okay, the boys are dangerous. Stanley also thinks about race. Three of the boys are black, three are white, and one is Hispanic, but because they are all dirty, they all look the same anyway.

One day, Magnet steals a bag of sunflower seeds from Mr. Sir when he comes to deliver water. Magnet got his name because of how his fingers attract things. When the boys throw Stanley the bag of seeds, which he didn't even want, the seeds spill into his hole. Once again, Stanley is in the "wrong place at the wrong time," since the water truck comes back. Mr. Sir catches Stanley with the sack in his hole, but instead of telling on Magnet, he says he did it himself and he is taken back to camp.

***Analysis(17-19):***

The boys become more real as we see their character traits and qualities. Squid cries at night sometimes but doesn't want anyone to know. Zero can't read and Stanley is not sympathetic or helpful to Zero, refusing to teach him. Stanley also has taken the blame for something Magnet did, probably because he knew it would be far worse to rat on the other boy than to take it on himself.

For the first time, the racial make-up of the group is discussed, but because they are all in the same place and have the same punishment - and because dirt and hard work make them all look the same - race is not a problem.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

One night, [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) wakes to a strange noise. He eventually realizes it's [Squid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters) crying and asks Squid if he's okay. Squid sniffs that he's fine. In the morning, Stanley checks on Squid. Squid informs Stanley that he has allergies and if Stanley says anything else, he'll break his jaw. Stanley complies, though he doesn't say much anyway, as he's afraid of saying the wrong thing. He knows his fellow campers are dangerous. Stanley is thankful and surprised that there aren't racial tensions between the campers.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Stanley's belief that his tent mates are dangerous and fundamentally different from him is again indicative of the cruel and selfish environment that Camp Green Lake promotes. This thought also suggests that Stanley isn't fully aware that he's changing to become more accepting of the camp’s social structure, while checking on Squid suggests he's not fully hardened yet.

***Summary Part 2:***

One day, [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) sees the water truck coming and takes his place in line. [Mr. Sir](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-sir) fills their canteens and as the truck pulls away, [Magnet](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters) asks Group D if anyone wants sunflower seeds. Magnet tosses Mr. Sir's bag of seeds to [X-Ray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/x-ray-rex), [Armpit](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters), [Squid](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters), and then [Zigzag](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zigzag-ricky). Stanley has no interest—he knows the salty seeds will get them in trouble at worst and at the very least, make them thirsty. When Zigzag tosses the bag, the seeds spill all over Stanley's hole. As Stanley tries to gather the seeds, Zigzag shouts that the truck is coming back. Stanley feels extremely unlucky.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Note that Stanley doesn't blame his own lack of hand-eye coordination; by blaming his family's bad luck he's able to make more sense out of the event and feel as though it's something that was bound to happen. This also tells the reader that even though Stanley thinks the curse is far-fetched, something will probably happen that will lead Stanley closer to his destiny.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) is unable to cover the sack properly by the time [Mr. Sir](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-sir) arrives. Mr. Sir observes that Stanley found something, and suggests that they take it to the [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden). Stanley explains that he stole the sack himself and ate the sunflower seeds all by himself. [Armpit](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters), [X-Ray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/x-ray-rex), and [Magnet](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters) shout to Stanley that he was rude to not share. Stanley follows Mr. Sir to the truck and thinks it feels good to sit in the shady cab.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Though the rest of Group D's teasing is a way for them to help corroborate Stanley's story, it's also telling that Stanley is willing to take the blame. This suggests that he fears the social backlash of ratting out Magnet more than he fears dealing with Mr. Sir.