***Holes***

***Chapter 23***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Summary:***

Green Lake is described as it was one hundred and ten years ago: a beautiful body of clear water with peach trees lining the shore. Miss Katherine Barlow was the teacher of the one room schoolhouse and she made wonderful spiced peaches that were preserved to last a year or longer. Charles Walker, or Trout Walker as he was known due to his horrible foot odor, came to classes that Miss Katherine taught. Trout did not come to learn, however. He was from the richest family in town and he wanted to marry Miss Katherine. One day he asked Miss Katherine to go on a ride with him in his new motorized boat. Trout is used to getting his own way so he is shocked and angry when Miss Katherine refuses to go with him

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

***Summary Part 1:***

The narrator explains that 110 years ago, Green Lake was the largest lake in Texas. Every Fourth of July, the town would host a picnic and award prizes for the best peach pies and jams. [Miss Katherine Barlow](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/miss-katherine-kissin-kate-barlow) always won a special prize for her delicious spiced peaches. She was the only schoolteacher and even though the schoolhouse was poorly maintained, her students loved her. In addition to teaching children, she taught adults during the evenings. The young men were all interested in Miss Katherine romantically, but she made sure they learned.

***Analysis Part 1:***

In particular, the fact that Miss Katherine presumably spends her whole day teaching (kids during the day and adults at night) suggests that she's a firm believer in the value of education. Her spiced peaches suggest also that she has a good and respectful relationship with nature, given that she can use nature's bounty in a noninvasive way to do well in the manmade world.

***Summary Part 2:***

One of these young men was [Charles "Trout" Walker](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/charles-trout-walker), whose nickname came from his incurable foot fungus that made his feet smell like dead fish. Most people in Green Lake expected [Miss Katherine](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/miss-katherine-kissin-kate-barlow) to marry Trout Walker, as his family was the wealthiest in the area. However, Trout never paid attention during the night classes. He was loud and stupid. Miss Katherine didn't care that her other adult pupils were uneducated since most of them still wanted to learn, but Trout was proud to be uneducated. One evening, he invited her out on his new motorized boat. She declined; the boat was noisy and spewed black smoke. Trout was angry, as he'd never been denied anything he wanted before.

***Analysis Part 2:***

The way that the narrator describes Trout Walker's motorized boat positions him and his family as being somewhat in opposition to nature; the motorized boat, by its very nature, pollutes the air and the water and apparently destroys the peace and quiet of the lake. When combined with Trout's disdain for education, it suggests that Trout, like the Warden, seeks to gain power through money, exploitation, and reputation alone.