***Holes***

***Chapter 27***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Summary:***

Stanley continues digging holes but now he rations his water carefully because he knows that if Mr. Sir comes with water he will not fill Stanley's canteen. One day Mr. Sir fills Stanley's canteen but takes it where Stanley cannot see it before returning it. Stanley pours it out because he fears that Mr. Sir has put something horrible in it. When Zero spends an hour digging Stanley's hole the other boys mock Stanley for having a slave. X-Ray says, " Same old story…the while boy sits while the black boy does all the work." Stanley continues to teach Zero, who is a fast learner. One day Zero writes his name and tells Stanley that his real name is Hector Zeroni.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) glances at his canteen, uncertain if he can take a drink of water. [Mr. Sir](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-sir) has continued to dump Stanley's water on the ground, though [Mr. Pendanski](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-pendanski) has been making a point to give Stanley extra. It also helps to have [Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) digging, but the other boys don't like it. They mock Stanley and insist that he's a master, while Zero, who is black, is his slave. The mocking intensifies when he insists he needs to save his strength to teach Zero to read. Though this is true, Stanley also knows that Zero is a fast learner. He sometimes hopes the [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden) is watching them so she'll know that Zero isn't stupid.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Stanley was once relieved that there were no "racial issues," but the way the other boys specifically conceptualize Stanley and Zero's agreement shows that, clearly, he was wrong. Again, this implies that Stanley may have more power than he thought he did based solely on his skin color. The fact that the other boys don't like this agreement again shows that they're far more interested in upholding a system in which everyone has to be miserable.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) sees the water truck approaching. [Mr. Sir](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-sir) is driving, so Stanley doesn't finish his canteen. When he hands it to Mr. Sir, Mr. Sir fills it and then takes it to the cab of the truck. After a few minutes, he returns and hands Stanley his full canteen. Stanley is afraid to drink, but takes it back to his hole. Finally, he dumps the water out.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Just as with the Warden's possible surveillance of the boys, when Mr. Sir possibly puts something in Stanley's water, it means that Stanley has to live in a state of constant fear.

***Summary Part 3:***

Once [Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) learns the alphabet, [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) teaches him to write his name. Zero smiles hugely and seems very proud as he writes it over and over again. Stanley is sad to think that even those hundred zeros still equal nothing. As they head for dinner later, Zero explains his real name is actually Hector Zeroni.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Hector's last name is notably the same as Madame Zeroni's; this offers more evidence that there's more to Zero than Stanley initially allowed. Stanley's thoughts on Zero writing his name also allude to how dehumanizing the nickname system is.