***Holes***

***Chapter 29***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Summary:***

The weather gets hotter at Camp Green Lake. One day Stanley sees that the sky is dark near the mountains in the west. There is thunder and lightning but no rain. During a flash of lightning Stanley thinks one of the mountains looks like a giant fist with a thumb sticking up. He thinks of how his stranded great- grandfather said he had found refuge on God's thumb.

***Detailed Analysis(25-29):***

Holes is a novel which asks the reader to sympathize with characters who have been deemed unacceptable by society. With the exception of Stanley, the boys are all criminals, and yet they are the heroes of the story. In this section, the story of how Kate Barlow becomes an outlaw allows us to feel sympathy for a woman who was initially presented as a dangerous criminal. Her cruelty as an outlaw is a direct result of the cruelty that she and Sam faced from the racism of the law and the racism of Green Lake's citizens. Kate is presented as having no options other than the path of an outlaw if she is to avenge the death of Sam. This obvious example of cruelty causing more cruelty reflects the situation at Camp Green Lake, where the boys who are treated harshly by adults act cruelly towards each other as a result.

In addition, the revelation of Kate's story provides definite proof that the Warden is seeking Kate's long lost treasure under the ground. It seems very likely that the Warden, with her red hair and freckles, is a descendent of Trout and Linda Walker who tried to torture Kate into revealing where the buried treasure was. The Warden has inherited not only the physical characteristics of red hair and freckles from her ancestors, but also their cruel personalities. The fact that Zero's real name is Hector Zeroni reveals another relation: Zero is a descendent of Madame Zeroni, the gypsy who may have put a curse on Stanley's great-great-grandfather. Although neither Stanley nor Hector is aware of the connection that exists between their families, the reader can put together the pieces and form almost the entire puzzle of Stanley's history. Once Stanley realizes that a mountain in the distance looks like a big thumb, it is evident (at least to the reader who has the benefit of an omniscient narration) that Camp Green Lake is very close to the site where Kate Barlow robbed Stanley's great-grandfather.

The way that the author mixes the past and present in the story reinforces the idea that the stories are parallel in many ways. Not only is Stanley digging on the same ground where his great-grandfather and Kate Barlow once walked, but he is digging with the relative of his great-great-grandfather's friend Madame Zeroni. The situations and characteristics of the people in one era are similar in many ways to the situations and characteristics of the people in another era. Just as Stanley's family curse has followed his family for generations, so personal traits and problems are passed down with successive generations. While Zero and Stanley are becoming friends and helping each other out, they are also threatening X-Ray's system of control. The boys are jealous that Zero digs part of Stanley's hole each day but the issue that really upsets them, especially X- Ray, is that Zero and Stanley no longer care what the other boys think of them.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

The weather becomes unbearably humid and [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) hears thunder across the lake, near the mountains. He's surprised that he can even see the mountains, as they usually aren't visible through the haze. [X-Ray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/x-ray-rex) and [Zigzag](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zigzag-ricky) joke about building an ark as a strike of lightning illuminates a rock formation that Stanley thinks looks like a fist making a thumbs-up sign. He thinks of the [first Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-first-stanley-yelnats), who said he survived on [God's Thumb](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/symbols/god-s-thumb) in the desert. Nobody knows how he did so without water or food. The image of the thumb remains in Stanley's mind, though in his mind, the lightning comes out of the thumb itself as if the thumb truly belongs to God.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Remember that there's been no rain on Green Lake since Sam's death; the storm in the distance near the mountains now acts as a signal that in order to set things right, one must find the rain and the mountains first. This is supported by the existence of God's Thumb there, as well, as that landmark in particular indicates that the divine is also involved in making the mountains a magical place.