***Holes***

***Chapter 31***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Summary:***

Stanley is angry with everyone, including himself. He regrets having Zero dig his hole for him. He considers ways to help Zero but can not think of any that do not involve retribution from the Warden. He hopes that Zero will travel to the mountain that looks like a thumb. Mr. Pendanski and the Warden ask Stanley if he knows where Zero is and then they discuss how they will change Zero's records so that no one will ever find him. Mr. Peandanski and the Warden say that they do not want anyone in the A.G.'s office to know about Zero. In the end they decide that no one will care about Zero.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) digs angrily. He thinks he should've taught [Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) to read even without the deal. He knows he should go out after Zero, but he doesn't. He digs Zero's hole alone, wondering if maybe they could make it to [God's Thumb](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/symbols/god-s-thumb) where there's possibly water. Stanley thinks that even if they made it there, they'd still have to come back eventually and face the [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden). Stanley wonders if he could somehow strike a deal with the Warden, but figures she'd just scratch everyone with her rattlesnake fingers.

***Analysis Part 1:***

When Stanley considers going to the Warden for help of some sort, it again suggests that his friendship with Zero has taught him the power of kindness and working together (though it's unlikely the Warden will go for any of this). This in turn shows that there are some people, like the Warden, for whom kindness is simply not valuable or a motivator in the least.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) hasn't returned by the next morning. [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) keeps an eye out as he digs and even considers walking out to look. He hopes that Zero somehow found [God's Thumb](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/symbols/god-s-thumb), just as the [first Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-first-stanley-yelnats) did. He hopes there's still water there. When Stanley returns to his tent after digging, he finds the [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden), [Mr. Sir](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-sir), and [Mr. Pendanski](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-pendanski) waiting for him. They want to know where Zero is, but Stanley honestly doesn't know. The Warden asks Mr. Pendanski if it's true that Zero has no family, and Mr. Pendanski replies that Zero is a ward of the state. The Warden confirms again that there's nobody to care about him and then asks Mr. Pendanski to destroy Zero's records so it will be like he was never at Camp Green Lake.

***Analysis Part 2:***

The Warden's logic here seems to imply that family are the only people who could possibly care about someone. This makes it clear how warped the Warden's views of love, kindness, and friendship are, as she's ignoring the friendship that Stanley and Zero formed in this calculation. However, by ignoring their friendship, she also shows that she underestimates Stanley's willpower or actual power to do anything to help Zero, something that will prove a terrible mistake on her part.