***Holes***

***Chapter 35***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Summary:***

Zero looks sick but refuses to go back to camp. Stanley and Zero go under the boat where it is cooler. Zero still has his shovel that he used to hit Mr. Pendanski. Zero has found many jars of a muddy looking liquid that he calls sploosh. Stanley doesn't want to drink it because he realizes that it is probably at least 100 years old, but he is so thirsty that he does. It tastes like peaches. Zero and Stanley have to break the top off the last bottle of sploosh because it is sealed very tightly. Zero has a bad stomachache and Stanley thinks it might be from the sploosh.

***Detailed Analysis(30-35):***

The novel establishes links between the past and the present. Just as the town of Green Lake's violence towards Katherine Barlow and Sam forced Kate to turn to violence and crime one hundred and ten years ago, so Mr. Pendanski's repeated taunting eventually drives Zero towards violence. Mr. Pendanski, who has always shown signs of being cruel underneath his kind façade, begins to show his true colors as he taunts Zero. Far from wanting every boy to turn his life around, Mr. Pendanski seems to want to keep Zero in his dead-end situation at Camp Green Lake. Stanley realizes that people should be proud of Zero for not only learning how to read, but for wanting to read. The Warden and Mr. Pendanski, on the other hand, seem determined to keep Zero from learning anything. Kate's story becomes directly intertwined with Zero and Stanley's story when Zero finds shelter in Sam's old boat, MaryLou.

The "sploosh" that Zero survives on is undoubtedly the celebrated spiced peaches that Katherine made during her days as a school teacher. The objects that remain from Sam and Kate Barlow, like the spiced peaches and the broken boat, aid Zero and Stanley in their struggle to escape the persecution and cruelty of Camp Green Lake, which is similar to the persecution and cruelty that Kate and Sam faced one hundred and ten years ago from the citizens of Green Lake. Stanley demonstrates his changed character when he steals Mr. Sir's truck. Although he knows that the Warden will surely punish him if and when she finds him, Stanley is brave enough to leave camp in order to try and help his friend. This willingness to suffer in order to help Zero shows that Stanley is not only brave, but also a good friend. He and Zero have successfully broken the Warden's system of authority and they are willing to help each other. Although the Warden and Mr. Pendanski decide that no one will care about Zero, Stanley proves them wrong by trying to help Zero on his own. The pieces of the mystery are almost all in place at this time. Katherine Barlow and her connection to Stanley's life and history is clear, the Warden's desire to have the boys dig for Kate's treasure has been revealed, and Zero and Stanley's family ties have also been discovered by the reader. What is left now is to discover how Zero and Stanley will survive in the unfriendly desert with dangerous lizards and the constant threat of dehydration. Obviously, God's thumb will be their source of refuge but what they find there is still unknown. In addition, the Warden mentions the A.G., a new and mysterious character.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni)'s face is sunken and droopy. [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) admits his canteen is empty and says he tried to bring the water truck. He insists they need to go back to camp, but Zero refuses and invites Stanley into the hole for "sploosh." Stanley squeezes through the hole, marveling at the fact that he can fit. He notices Zero's stolen shovel as Zero attempts to get a lid off of a glass jar. Zero explains there were sixteen jars buried under the boat and uses the shovel to break the top off. Zero offers the broken jar to Stanley. Stanley is afraid of the broken glass and whatever the sploosh is, as he thinks it's probably 100 years old and could be seriously contaminated.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Just as Sam's boat appears to be helping Zero, the jars, which are likely Miss Katherine's spiced peaches, are also helping Stanley and Zero along on their journey. This reinforces that the boys will somehow help make up for Sam's murder as they go along. With this, the novel suggests that destiny is circular in that the boys are going to at least attempt the same things that Elya, Miss Katherine, and Sam did.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) wonders if [Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) knows what bacteria are as he takes a sip. The liquid is sweet and peachy and the boys drink the entire jar. Zero then admits it was the last jar, and Stanley insists that they need to return to camp. He suggests that they'll probably send Zero to the hospital, like [Barf Bag](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters). Zero admits that Barf Bag stepped on a rattlesnake on purpose.

***Analysis Part 2:***

The revelation that Barf Bag hurt himself on purpose to get out of Camp Green Lake illustrates that the camp is capable of pushing the inmates to drastic measures to escape the toxicity—but also, that in that regard, the natural world is a friend, not a foe.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) asks what "Mar-ya Luh-oh-oo" is, and leads [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) back aboveground to point at the boat. Stanley explains that Y can act as both a vowel and a consonant. Suddenly, Zero groans, grabs his stomach, and falls to the ground. Stanley feels helpless. When Zero's episode passes, the boys again argue about whether to go back to camp. Zero says he'd rather die in the desert than go back. Stanley stares at the mountains for a minute and then asks Zero to tell him if the fist-like mountain looks like anything. Slowly, Zero forms his hand into a fist and puts his thumb up.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Zero's question shows that he's taking his education very seriously, which implies that he understands that he'll gain a great deal of power just by being able to read and better understand the world around him. When Zero agrees that God's Thumb looks like a thumbs-up, it shows that nature isn't just out to help Stanley; essentially, he's not special.