***Holes***

***Chapter 44***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Summary:***

After dark, Stanley digs in the hole and Zero sneaks into camp to get water and food. Zero finds frosted flakes, which he and Stanley both find revoltingly sweet after more than a week of eating only onions. Stanley and Zero finally dig up a suitcase and just as they are preparing to leave a light shines in their faces and they find the Warden standing in front of them.

***Summary (42-44):***

The boys continue to survive and get stronger on top of the mountain. Stanley even recognizes that for the first time in his life he is happy because he has a friend and he likes himself. Stanley begins to plan a trip back to Camp Green Lake to look for the treasure he believes Kissing Kate Barlow buried and which he thinks was located near the lipstick tube that he found in his hole. Stanley figures that he and Zero were destined to meet, and since they are going to be fugitives after escaping from camp, they might as well be rich ones.

As they make preparations to go back down the mountain, Zero tells Stanley about his childhood. Zero's family had a home at one time and Zero remembers his mother singing the same song that Stanley had sung. Stanley remembers that his mother's last letter had said they might be evicted because of the bad smell in their apartment, and he realizes that he could end up in a situation similar to Zero's.

The preparations continue with the boys packing onions and water and planning to leave at daylight so they could arrive back at Camp before dark. The boy's plan is to dig in the hole where Stanley found the lipstick tube and Zero will sneak into the kitchen and steal some food and water.

Making their way down the mountain, both boys make a show of being strong, refusing to drink any water before the other one, and finally, they agree to drink at the same time. Zero continues telling Stanley about his mother who just left one day and never came back. Zero's mother told him to wait in a certain place, and he had a stuffed animal, a giraffe named Jaffy, that he held onto for comfort while he waited. Zero waited more than a month for her at Laney Park, sleeping in the tunnel you crawl through on the playground. One mother saw him one day watching a kid's party, told him to go away, and he was so scared he left Jaffy. When Stanley asks if Zero ever found Jaffy, Zero admits that Jaffy wasn't real.

Zero is able to make sure they find the right way back to the correct hole by making a diagram and the boys arrive at camp, just out of sight of the daily activities. When the boys return to their tents, Zero and Stanley climb into holes to wait for darkness when they'll get into the right hole and start digging for treasure. The boys follow through with their plan. Stanley begins to dig while Zero goes to the kitchen and gets cereal and fresh water. Finally, after digging in the total darkness, the shovel hits something and Stanley and Zero pull out a big metal case. Just as they unearth it, a light comes into the hole and the Warden thanks them for their help.

***Analysis (42-44):***

This section of the book helps us see Zero in a very sympathetic light. Here's a young child who is waiting for his mother to return, but she never does. Zero waits a month, sleeping in a tunnel on a playground, with his only comfort an imaginary stuffed animal. Stanley sees that all families can suffer misfortunes and he thinks about his own parents' struggle to make enough money to keep their smelly apartment.

Stanley's strength and his ability to survive, coupled with his new friendship with Zero, give him happiness. Even though they're living on their own, existing on onions and muddy water, Stanley has a moment of sheer happiness.

The boys again demonstrate their resourcefulness and intelligence in making a plan, carrying it out, and getting safely back down to camp. The boys also find the treasure they've set out to find, only to be discovered by the Warden. Instead of being happy they are alive and have returned to Camp, the Warden sarcastically thanks them for their help.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) struggles to sleep but is surprised when [Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) wakes him up. There's one light on in the camp office and moonlight above as Stanley climbs down into the correct hole. He begins to dig. Zero watches and then sneaks to camp to fill the water jars. It's so dark, Stanley can't even see if he's digging up something valuable. He decides to make the hole wider as Zero surprises him with breakfast. Stanley pours some cereal down his throat and almost gags at how sweet it is after the onions. Zero takes over digging and they switch several times.

***Analysis Part 1:***

At this point, it seems the work of destiny that Zero is able to sneak in and out of camp to fill the jars and steal food. The unnaturally sweet cereal shows again how unnatural and negative the camp is, given that something that's normally positive (sweet cereal) now seems overly sweet and even unpalatable.

***Summary Part 2:***

Finally, [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats)'s shovel hits something hard. Surprised, he chips off dirt and discovers that it's a chest of some sort. He carefully digs into the wall and discovers the object is about eight inches tall and two feet wide, though he has no idea how far into the side of the hole it goes. Stanley fears making the side of the hole cave in, but he and [Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) decide that Stanley should try to wedge it free. It works, and Stanley pulls out a heavy suitcase. He hands it to Zero. As Stanley tries to pull himself out of the hole, the [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden) turns on a flashlight and thanks him for his help.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Even though the novel led the boys and the reader to believe that destiny was on Stanley and Zero's side, the Warden's appearance calls this into question. However, given the way the novel suggests that destiny works, her appearance may also be something that's foretold. This is supported by the fact that she and Stanley are now on opposite sides of nature, which suggests that man versus nature will be the next showdown.