***Holes***

***Chapter 5***

***Summary And Analysis:***

***Summary:***

There are six tents labeled A through F. The counselors sleep in tent F and the campers, or juvenile delinquents, sleep in the other tents. Stanley is assigned to tent D with Mr. Pendanski as his counselor. Mr. Pendanski is friendly to Stanley and warns him not to upset the Warden. Mr. Pendanski tells Stanley he wants to help Stanley turn his life around. Stanley assumed it is useless to claim his innocence again so he tells Mr. Pendanski he will try to change. Mr. Pendanski introduces Stanley to two other campers. The campers all have real names and nicknames. Mr. Pendanski introduces Rex and Alan but their nicknames are X-Ray and Squid. The campers are so dirty that it takes Stanley a minute to realize that X-Ray is black and Squid is white. X-Ray wears glasses and asks what happened to Barf Bag. Mr. Pendanski, who will only call the campers by their birth names, replies that Lewis is in the hospital and will not be returning. Stanley is shown his cot, which previously belonged to Barf Bag. The cot is one of seven that are tightly packed in one room. Mr. Pendanski introduces José, Theodore, and Ricky who are also known as Magnet, Armpit, and Zigzag. Zero is the last boy that Stanley meets. Mr. Pendanski claims that Zero has his name due to the fact that there is nothing inside his head. Mr. Pendanski, called "mom" by the boys, asks everyone to help Stanley get adjusted to the camp and then leaves. Stanley asks Theodore where he can find water and Theodore reacts with violence. He grabs Stanley and throws him to the floor, saying that his name is Armpit. Then he tells him that there is a water spigot near the shower.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) is assigned to D tent and meets his counselor, [Mr. Pendanski](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-pendanski). He doesn't look nearly as scary as [Mr. Sir](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-sir), though he assures Stanley that Mr. Sir is only cranky because he quit smoking. He does say that the [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden) is the only person to worry about. As Mr. Pendanski tells Stanley that he knows he's not a bad kid, even if he has made mistakes, Stanley thinks it's not even worth it to tell him he's innocent.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Stanley's decision to not even try to talk to Mr. Pendanski about his innocence shows that, at this point, Stanley believes that nobody will ever help him get justice: his resignation to his fate suggests that he's given up entirely on the formal justice system, which in turn indicates that he'll need to rely on other forms of justice.

***Summary Part 2:***

Two boys, caked in dirt and dripping with sweat, enter the compound. [Mr. Pendanski](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-pendanski) calls them over and they're so dirty that [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) can barely tell that one boy is black and the other is white. Mr. Pendanski introduces Stanley to [Rex](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/x-ray-rex) and [Alan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters), but the boys introduce themselves as X-Ray and Squid. Mr. Pendanski assigns Stanley a cot that X-Ray says was previously inhabited by a boy named [Barf Bag](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters). Squid fetches four other boys, three of whom Mr. Pendanski introduces as [José](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters), [Theodore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters), and [Ricky](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zigzag-ricky) (but they call themselves Magnet, Armpit, and Zigzag). The boys and Mr. Pendanski call the last boy [Zero](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni), and Mr. Pendanski explains that Zero has nothing in his head. Finally, Armpit introduces Mr. Pendanski as “Mom.”

***Analysis Part 2:***

The nicknames (which the boys choose themselves or assign to each other) allow the boys to differentiate themselves from the adults, suggesting that there's a divide between the adults who go by their real names and the kids who don't. It's important to note that even as Mr. Pendanski seems nicer than Mr. Sir, he's still extremely callous towards Zero and clearly thinks little of him. This suggests that even "kindness" at Camp Green Lake is tainted and not to be taken at face value.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Mr. Pendanski](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/mr-pendanski) gives the campers a speech about taking care of [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) and then leaves. The other boys head out to shower and as they go, Stanley asks [Theodore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters) where he can fill his canteen. Theodore angrily grabs Stanley's collar, spits that Stanley has to call him Armpit, and tells him where the water spigot is.

***Analysis Part 3:***

By insisting that Stanley use his nickname, Armpit is asking Stanley for a kindness of sorts: to see Armpit how Armpit wants to be seen. However, the way he goes about asking for this again shows that kindness in pure form doesn't exist at Camp Green Lake.