***Holes***

***Chapter 50***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Summary:***

After the dramatic events of Parts One and Two, Part Three tells us what happens next. Camp Green Lake is closed down and the Warden sells off the land, Stanley's father's invention is successful, and [Zero](https://www.gradesaver.com/holes/study-guide/character-list#zero) hires a team of private investigators and finds his mother. The Yelnats family splits the treasure with Zero, and buys a new house with their half.

A year and a half later, we see Stanley at a party at his house: the family is celebrating a Super Bowl ad for Stanley's father's product. Clyde Livingston is at the party, and he stars in the ad. Zero and his mother are also there.

The scene is Stanley's house and there's a large party going on. Stanley and Hector are there with lots of adults who are watching the Super Bowl. At a commercial break, everyone stops to watch Clyde "Sweet Feet" Livingston on camera as he slides into base and is pronounced, "Safe." Clyde tells the audience that he used to have smelly feet, but now, thanks to a great new product made from natural ingredients that fight fungus and bacteria, he truly does have Sweet Feet. The product, invented by Stanley's father the day after Stanley carried Zero up the mountain, is called Sploosh, and smells a little like peaches. The best part is that Clyde and his wife are actually friends with Stanley's family and they sit on his sofa. Clyde even tells Stanley to cover his wife's mouth when she continues to talk about how REALLY bad Clyde's feet smelled before "Sploosh."

The suitcases contain the fortune of the first Stanley Yelnats, about $20,000 in jewels and almost two million dollars in stocks and deeds and notes. Each boy got about a million dollars. Stanley bought his family a home with a laboratory in the basement and Hector found his mother with the help of the private detectives he was able to hire. Everyone is there at the Super Bowl party, and the last line of the book is of Hector's mother, who admittedly is worn-looking and tired, humming the same song that Stanley sang, only with the slightly different words that she had learned from her Latvian ancestors, starting with Madame Zeroni.

The narrator fills in some of the "holes" in the plot. Stanley's father invented his cure for foot odor the day after the great-great-grandson of Elya Yelnats carried the great-great-great-grandson of Madame Zeroni up the mountain. Camp Green Lake was closed and the Warden, Ms. Walker, was forced to sell her family's land. The camp will soon be a Girl Scout camp. The suitcase contained some jewels and many valuable deeds and stocks. Stanley and Hector each received almost a million dollars from these finds. Stanley buys his family a house and Hector hires a private investigator to find his mother. The narrator speaks directly to the reader, saying that although the reader is sure to have more questions, a scene at the Yelnat's house will best explain Stanley and Hector's situation. Stanley and Hector watch a commercial in which Clyde Livingston advertises sploosh, Stanley's father's cure for foot odor. Clyde Livingston is at Stanley's house in person, watching the commercial as well. Hector sits with a woman who looks just like him. She sings him the same song that Madame Zeroni taught Elya Yelnats.

***Analysis:***

Part Three of this novel functions more or less like an epilogue, outlining the denouement of the story. The loose threads of the story are tied together in a perfect happy ending: Zero and his mother are reunited, the curse is broken, and the Yelnats family is finally prospering. Even Camp Green Lake is shut down, and no one will suffer there any longer.

It is interesting that Sachar's narration downplays this happy ending, preventing it from turning saccharine. He tells us that he will spare us the "tedious details" of the rest of the boys' lives, because it would be "boring" (230). Evidently, the denouement does matter, otherwise there would be no Chapter 50 and the story would end with the rainfall at the end of Chapter 49, but the author is right that the main action has passed - the fabulous and even supernatural events that took place from Lithuania to Camp Green Lake - and what remains is real life.

All the wrongs of the past are corrected. Hector and Stanley have made a better life for themselves, having overcome some tremendous obstacles. There is hope for Hector and his mother who are once again united and can now live together.

***Critical study:***

Once again, the history of Sam and his onion remedies explains events that occur in the present day. Stanley and Hector (Zero) avoid being bitten by the deadly yellow-spotted lizards because they have been eating nothing but onions for more than a week. This fact makes the lizards, which appear to be a menace, into a help for Stanley and Hector, successfully keeping the Warden away from them until Stanley's lawyer arrives to help them. The story of the lizards is another device that the author uses to suggest that fate has a hand in Stanley and Hector's story. Although Stanley's family has had bad luck for generations, all of the unlucky events have lined up to help Stanley and Hector in some way. This suggests that everything has happened for a reason and that instead of always being in the wrong place at the wrong time, perhaps Stanley has been in the right place at the right time. When Stanley and Hector are given the freedom to leave Camp Green Lake, some of the other boys are liberated as well. Squid, who has always taunted Stanley about his correspondence with his mother, feels able to ask Stanley to help him contact his mom in order to apologize. Squid's meanness towards Stanley is really the result of insecurity and jealousy. The other boys also give up their jealous natures and seem genuinely happy for Stanley and Hector when they leave Camp Green Lake. This emotional release is mirrored by the rain that falls on the camp, which is a symbol that the curse of Green Lake is finally over. As Stanley is returned to his parents, so Hector is able to locate his mother. By caring about Hector himself, Stanley effectively enables him to find his family. The Warden and Mr. Pendanski thought that no one would care about Hector because, being mean people themselves, they underestimated the power of friendship. Just as in a fable or fairy-tale, there are many morals at the end of Holes. Fate is shown to be a powerful force, friendship and family is proven to be an important role in everyone's lives, the destructive power of meanness and cruelty is demonstrated, and the importance of loyalty and fulfilling promises is emphasized. By linking three separate stories that occur in different time periods, the narrator also shows how all actions lead to reactions and that history is an important force in everyone's life.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

The narrator says that, despite the fact that [Stanley's mother](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-s-mother) doubts that there was ever a curse, it's true that [Stanley's father](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-s-father) invented his foot odor cure the day after [Elya Yelnats](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/elya-yelnats)'s great-great grandson carried the great-great-great grandson of [Madame Zeroni](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/madame-zeroni) up the mountain. The [Warden](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-warden) was forced to sell her family's land after the [Attorney General](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters) closed Camp Green Lake. It's slated to become a [Girl Scout](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/symbols/girl-scouts) camp.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Here, the narrator confirms the reader's suspicions: Stanley's journey absolutely mirrored that of Elya Yelnats, and by carrying Zero up the mountain, he broke the family's curse. In turn, this seems to have also made up for the atrocities committed at Green Lake in the 1880s given that the Warden, Trout Walker's descendent, loses control of the land.

***Summary Part 2:***

The contents of the suitcase turned out to be several low-quality gems and a stack of old stock certificates and deeds of trust from the [first Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/the-first-stanley-yelnats). [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) and [Hector](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) each got a little less than a million dollars. Stanley bought his family a house, and Hector hired private investigators. As a final offering, the narrator recounts a scene that takes place a year and a half after Stanley and Hector left Camp Green Lake.

***Analysis Part 2:***

When the narrator shifts to calling Hector by his given name, it suggests that the novel itself now recognizes Hector as a full person, deserving of kindness and recognition. It's telling that both boys do nice things for their families with their money; this suggests that they truly internalized what they learned about the power of kindness.

***Summary Part 3:***

On Super Bowl Sunday, there's a party at the Yelnats house. [Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) and [Hector](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni) are the only teens in attendance. As a commercial comes on, everyone stops to watch. It shows [Clyde Livingston](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/clyde-livingston), who's also sitting in Stanley's living room, playing baseball. He explains that his nickname is Sweet Feet, but his feet didn't used to actually smell good. He pulls out a can of something called Sploosh and says it cured his foot smell. Everyone at the party claps their hands as Clyde Livingston's wife makes jokes about how bad her husband's feet used to smell.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Clyde Livingston's presence in Stanley's living room, and the fact that he's the spokesperson for Stanley's dad's invention, suggests that he and the Yelnats family were able to make up for Livingston's heartbreaking testimony against Stanley during his trial. Now, Stanley has money, proximity to fame, and a robust, loving family—all things that are only available to him after breaking the curse.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Stanley](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/stanley-yelnats) turns towards [Hector](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-hector-zeroni), who's sitting on the floor in front of a youngish woman. She looks weathered and weary, as though she's seen too much. As [Hector's mother](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/holes/characters/zero-s-mother) runs her fingers through Hector's hair, she sings a song her grandmother used to sing to her—a version of the song that Stanley's family has been singing for generations.

***Analysis Part 4:***

The presence of Hector's mother indicates that he hired an investigator to find her with his money, thereby putting what he has of his family back together. This suggests that Stanley breaking the curse has also freed the Zeronis; it provided relief for all.