***Holes***

***Chapter 8***

***Summary And Analysis:***

***Summary:***

The dangerous yellow-spotted lizard is described. The lizards have eleven yellow spots, which are hard to see on their yellow-green body. They have black teeth, and white tongues. They like to live in holes, which offer them shade, and they can leap out of even very deep holes in order to attack their prey. In addition to small animals, insects, and cactus thorns, the lizards like to eat sunflower seeds. Chapter 8 is devoted to a description of the yellow-spotted lizards. The chapter explains that up to twenty can live in one hole, that they eat the shells of sunflower seeds, and that the yellow spots aren't as obvious as the red around their eyes, their black teeth, or their white tongue. In fact, if you can see the yellow spots at all, you're probably already dead.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

The narrator notes that lots of people don't believe in curses or yellow-spotted lizards, but in the case of the lizards, it doesn't matter if you believe or not if one bites you. The narrator explains that the yellow-spotted lizards are named for their spots, though the spots are their least obvious feature. They're between six and ten inches long with red-rimmed, yellow eyes. They have black teeth and white tongues. If anyone gets close enough to see the spots, they're as good as dead. The lizards live in holes and leap out to attack live prey. They also eat the shells of sunflower seeds.

***Analysis Part 1:***

The yellow-spotted lizards are another way that the novel suggests that nature requires respect: the lizards require humans to understand that they're dangerous and not to be messed with if they mean to survive. The mention that they eat sunflower seeds casts Mr. Sir's habit of spitting seeds into holes in an especially sinister light. Though it's unclear if he knows this, he is definitely attracting lizards to where the boys are digging.