

ENGLISH IIIB

Holes Comprehension Questions

Chapters 1 – 6:

1. Read the “Author Study” at the end of these questions and answer the question: What would you tell Mr. Sacher if he asked you what you would most like to have him write about?
2. Describe Camp Green Lake – its vegetation, its weather and its animals.
3. How did Stanley feel at first about going to Camp Green Lake?
4. What was Stanley’s father’s occupation? What three things are needed to succeed at this occupation? Which one didn’t he have?
5. Besides the name, what thing did all the Stanley Yelnats have in common?
6. What happened to the fortune of the first Stanley Yelnats?
7. What did Mr. Sir tell Stanley his daily job would be?
8. Why weren’t there any fences around the camp?
9. What did Mr. Pendanski say was the one rule at the camp?
10. What were the nicknames of Alan, Jose, Theodore, Ricky and Lewis?
11. Who was Clyde “Sweetfeet” Livingston?
12. What was Stanley’s “crime”?

Chapters 7 – 12:

1. What are three of the problems Stanley had in digging his hole?
2. Why did Elya’s pig and Igor’s pig weigh exactly the same?
3. Why do you think Elya decided not to marry Myra?
4. Why did Madame Zeroni put a curse on Elya and all of his descendants?
5. Why wasn’t Elya’s and Sarah’s life easy?
6. Why do you think Stanley was proud of his newly dug hole?
7. What does the spotted yellow lizard look like? Where does it live? What does it eat?
8. What was Stanley’s nickname? Why do you think they might have named him that?
9. When Stanley started his second hole, he applied knowledge he learned from the first one. What were two things he learned?
10. How was it proven to Stanley that there had actually been a lake at the camp?
11. Why was Stanley glad they gave him his nickname?
12. What did Mr. Pendanski say was the reason Stanley was at the camp?

Chapters 13 – 19:

1. What did Stanley find in the hole? What did he do with it?
2. How did X-Ray reward Stanley?
3. Describe the Warden and what she was wearing.
4. How did the Warden treat Mr. Pendanski in Chapter 14?

5. Why didn't X-Ray want to talk with Stanley before breakfast about the gold tube?
6. Were the boys at the camp digging just "to build character". Why were they digging?
7. When nothing was found, how did the Warden start treating the boys?
8. What did Stanley write to his mother about what they were doing at camp?
9. How did the boys get the sunflower seeds? Who took the blame for them?

Chapters 20 – 25:

1. What was "special" about the Warden's nail polish?
2. What did the warden do to Mr. Sir?
3. When Stanley's grandfather was asked how he lived so long in the desert, what did he say?
4. While Stanley was with the Warden, what did Zero do?
5. What did Stanley do for Zero?
6. What did Stanley realize about the gold tube?
7. Who was Katherine Barlow? Where did she live?
8. How did Mr. Sir punish Caveman?
9. How was Onion Sam? Why did Kate like him?
10. Write a definition for the words "desolate" and "refuge".

Chapters 26 – 28:

1. What did the mob do to Kate's schoolhouse and what did they do to Onion Sam?
2. Why did they do such terrible things?
3. Why hasn't it rained on Green Lake for 110 years?
4. How did Kate Barlow change?
5. How did Mr. Sir treat Stanley?
6. What did Zero finally learn to write? What was his real name?
7. Who was Linda Miller Walker? What color was her hair?
8. What did trout and Linda want from Kate?
9. How did Kate die?
- 10-12. Short Answer—one paragraph: When Stanley arrives at the camp, physically he can be described as fat and weak. Emotionally he was a loner, unsuccessful and unable to get along with others. How has he changed since he came to the camp?

Chapters 29 – 35:

1. What did Stanley see in the flash of lightening that lit up the mountains? What was important about it?
2. Why was Zero helping Caveman dig his hole?
3. When the Warden learned that Zero was being taught to read, how did she and Mr. Pendanski treat Zero?

4. What did Zero do as a result of their comments?
5. Where did Stanley hope that Zero would go? Why?
6. What did the Warden and Mr. Pendanski decide to do about Zero's records?
7. Why did Stanley attempt to steal the truck?
8. Where did Stanley find Zero?
9. What was Sploosh?

Chapters 36 – 42:

1. While Zero and Stanley were walking toward the mountain, how did Stanley keep Zero's spirits up?
2. Stanley was not as scared about dying as he was about his parents. What was he worried about?
3. How did Stanley know there was water nearby?
4. How did Stanley get Zero up the mountain?
5. What important food source did Stanley find?
6. What was special about the onions?
7. What did Zero confess to Stanley?
8. What did Zero notice about Clyde's shoes?
9. Why was Stanley happy, as he lay awake staring at the sky?
10. Why did Stanley decide to leave the mountain and go back to the Camp?

Chapters 43 – 47:

1. Why did Stanley and Zero want to leave the mountain at the first hint of daylight?
2. What happened to Zero's mother?
3. Who was the best at finding directions (and at Math)?
4. After Stanley finds the suitcase, who finds him?
5. Why didn't the Warden just take the suitcase from him since she had a gun?
6. What did the Warden and the others think would happen to the boys?
7. Where did the Warden tell the Hispanic lady the suitcase came from?
8. Who read the name on the suitcase? What was the name?

Chapters 48 – 50:

1. Who were the tall man and the Hispanic woman?
2. How did the boys from Group D treat Stanley and Zero now?
3. What did Squid ask Stanley to do?
4. Why was Zero allowed to go home with Stanley?
5. Why didn't the lizards bite Stanley and Zero?
6. What had Ms. Morengo discovered about the theft of Clyde's shoes?
7. What did Stanley's father invent? What did it smell like?
8. What was the weather like at the lake as the boys were going home?
9. When did Stanley's father invent his cure for foot odor?
10. What was in the suitcase? How much was it worth?

11. What commercial does Clyde Livingston make?
- 12-14. Short Answer—one paragraph: How would you describe Stanley now as compared with Stanley when he first came to camp?

AUTHOR STUDY

HOLES

Louis Sacher was born in East Meadow, New York on March 20, 1954. He moved to California when he was 9. He attended Antioch College in Ohio and got a law degree at the University of California, Berkeley. He has written 17 children’s books including the Wayside School Series. He now lives in Austin, Texas.

Mr. Sacher decided early on to write children’s and young adult literature rather than writing for adults. He says that his experience as a teacher’s aide at elementary school steered him in that direction. He loved all of the kids and in his words, “just had a great time.”

On a recent PBS interview, he was asked if there was a difference in his approach between writing for kids and writing for adults. He said, “I don’t think so. I think that what makes good children’s young and adult books is putting the same care and effort into it as if I were writing for adults.”

In writing, Holes, Mr. Sacher said that his inspiration came from being exposed to the heat after moving from San Francisco to Texas. He just began imagining how this heat could affect kids and eventually built a story around the environment. To tone down some of the terrible effects of the environment, he kept a line of humor running through the story.

What does Mr. Sacher want kids to get out of his books? These are his words: “I want them to have fun. I want kids to think that reading can be just as much fun, and more so, than TV or video games. I think that any other kind of message or morals...is secondary to first just enjoying the book.”

