

Reading For Comprehension Series
By Lee Ann Berg

Holes

by Louis Sachar

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Reading Level 5.5

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Teacher's Guide

Please note: The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per *EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989.*)

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And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

Part One You Are Entering Camp Green Lake Chapters 1, 2, and 3 Pp. 3-10

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found) None

Comprehension Questions

1. Describe Camp Green Lake. Pp. 3-4

It was not a lake. It was a dry, flat wasteland, and nothing was green. This dry lake was inhabited by rattlesnakes and scorpions. Campers had dug holes in the lake bed. The rattlesnake and scorpion bites wouldn't kill a person, but yellow-spotted lizard bites would.

2. Who was Stanley Yelnats? P. 5

He was an overweight kid from a poor family. He was sent to Camp Green Lake instead of jail. He was happy to go to camp because he had never been to camp before.

3. Who was in the bus going to camp with Stanley? P. 6

There was no one except the bus driver and guard. Stanley was handcuffed to the seat.

4. How did Stanley's teacher encourage Stanley's classmates' cruel remarks about Stanley's appearance to Stanley? P. 7

The teacher used Stanley's weight as part of a ratio to a thinner student. Stanley was 3:1 fatter than smaller student.

5. What did Stanley's dad do for a living? P. 8

He was an unsuccessful inventor.

6. Who was the cause of the family's curse which was why they only had bad luck? P. 9 Stanley's dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather

7. What had happened to the first Stanley Yelnats's fortune? P. 10

The first Stanley had made a fortune in the stock market but was robbed by the outlaw, Kissin' Kate Barlow, on his way to California.

8. What was Stanley's big surprise upon arriving at Camp Green Lake? P. 10

There was no lake, and there was hardly anything green.

Chapter 28 Pp. 120-123

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found) None

Comprehension Questions

- 1. When Kate returned to Green Lake what did she finally realize? P. 120**
She realized she was crazy and had been crazy for over 20 years.
- 2. What did Trout Walker and Linda Miller want? P. 121**
They wanted Kate's loot from all her robberies.
- 3. What did Linda decide Kate had done with the loot? P. 122**
Linda figured Kate had buried it.
- 4. How did Kate die? P. 123**
She died after a lizard with red eyes bit her.

Part Two The Last Hole Chapter 29 Pp. 127-129

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

humid (7, 127) containing much moisture; damp

refuge (5, 128) shelter or place that provides protection from danger

delirious (8, 128) mental disturbance marked by confusion

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What had happened to the weather? P. 127**
There was a change. It was unbearably humid, temperature was hotter, thunderstorm in distant mountains.
- 2. What did Stanley notice during one particular lightning flash? P. 128**
He noticed that one mountain look like a thumb.
- 3. Why was this significant to Stanley? P. 129**
His great-grandfather had supposedly said that when he was stranded in the desert by Kate Barlow, he found refuge on God's thumb.

Chapter 30 Pp. 130-140

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found) None

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What declaration did Zigzag make? P. 130**
He said it was his birthday.
- 2. What did Stanley realize about himself? P. 131**
He was a lot stronger. His body had adjusted to the heat and harsh conditions.
- 3. What did the boys hassle Stanley about? P. 132**
Zero was still digging part of Stanley's hole everyday.
- 4. What did X-Ray make Stanley do? P. 133**
Stanley had to go to front of the line to get water and also his lunch.
- 5. Why did X-Ray make Stanley do this? P. 133**
Accept any answer.
- 6. What did Zigzag try to give to Stanley? P. 134**
His cookie
- 7. What really caused Zigzag to jump on Stanley and plummet him with his fists? P. 135**
Mr. Pendanski told Stanley to hit Zigzag which Stanley did with only a feeble attempt.
- 8. Who came to Stanley's rescue when Zigzag really beat on Stanley? P. 136**
Zero got a choke-hold on Zigzag.
- 9. What did Mr. Pendanski and Warden hassle Zero about? P. 137**
He was being taught to read from Stanley, but they said Zero was too dumb to learn.
- 10. What did Warden tell Stanley about Zero? P. 138**
There will be no more reading lessons. Dig your own hole.
- 11. Why was Stanley not to teach Zero anymore? P. 139**
It led to trouble. Zero had almost killed Zigzag. Reading stressed Zero because Zero was too stupid to learn.
- 12. Why did Warden order the guards to watch the shower room and the wreck**

Student's Guide

Part One You Are Entering Camp Green Lake Chapters 1, 2, and 3 Pp. 3-10

Vocabulary None

Comprehension Questions

1. Describe Camp Green Lake. Pp. 3-4
2. Who was Stanley Yelnats? P. 5
3. Who was in the bus going to camp with Stanley? P. 6
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5. What did Stanley's dad do for a living? P. 8
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Chapter 4 Pp. 11-15

Vocabulary

desolate (11)

juvenile (12)

premises (12)

Comprehension Questions

1. When Stanley got to camp, how was he feeling? P. 11
2. Why did the man in the cowboy hat have a burlap sack of sunflower seeds sitting next to him on the floor? P. 12
3. What was Stanley told to call the cowboy hat man? P. 13
4. What did every “camper” have to do everyday? P. 13
5. Why weren't there any guards, guard towers, electric fences or any other barriers to keep the boys from running away from Camp Green Lake? Pp. 14-15

Chapter 5 Pp. 16-20

Vocabulary

society (18)

sanitary (19)

spigot (20)

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Mr. Pendanski (pen-dance-key)? P. 16
2. Of whom was Stanley supposed to be especially afraid? Pp. 16-17
3. What did Stanley find out about the inmates of the camp? P. 17
4. Why was Stanley not particularly thrilled with his cot? P. 18
5. What was Mr. Pendanski's nickname? P. 19
6. Why did Mom say Zero was nicknamed Zero? P. 19
7. Where was Stanley supposed to fill his canteen? P. 20

Student's Workbook

Part One You Are Entering Camp Green Lake Chapters 1, 2, and 3 Pp. 3-10

Vocabulary None

Comprehension Questions

1. Describe Camp Green Lake. Pp. 3-4 _____

2. Who was Stanley Yelnats? P. 5 _____

3. Who was in the bus going to camp with Stanley? P. 6 _____

4. What did Stanley's dad do for a living? P. 8 _____

5. Who was the cause of the family's curse which was why they only had bad luck? P. 9

6. What had happened to the first Stanley Yelnats's fortune? P. 10 _____

7. What was Stanley's big surprise upon arriving at Camp Green Lake? P. 10 _____

Chapters 4, 5, and 6 Pp. 11-25

Vocabulary

desolate (11) _____

testified (23) _____

destiny (24) _____

despicable (25) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. When Stanley got to camp, how was he feeling? P. 11 _____

2. Why did Mr. Sir have a burlap sack of sunflower seeds sitting next to him? P. 12

3. What did every “camper” have to do everyday? P. 13 _____

4. Why weren't there any guards or any other barriers to keep the boys from running away the camp? Pp. 14-15 _____

5. Who was Mr. Pendanski? P. 16 _____

6. Of whom was Stanley supposed to be especially afraid? Pp. 16-17 _____

7. Why did Mom say Zero was nicknamed Zero? P. 19 _____

8. Why did the judge think Camp Green Lake would help Stanley? P. 25 _____

Teacher's Workbook KEY

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- 3. Who was in the bus going to camp with Stanley? P. 6** There was no one except the bus driver and guard. Stanley was handcuffed to the seat.
- 4. What did Stanley's dad do for a living? P. 8** He was an unsuccessful inventor.
- 5. Who was the cause of the family's curse which was why they only had bad luck? P. 9** Stanley's dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather
- 6. What had happened to the first Stanley Yelnats's fortune? P. 10** The first Stanley had made a fortune in the stock market but was robbed by the outlaw, Kissin' Kate Barlow, on his way to California.
- 7. What was Stanley's big surprise upon arriving at Camp Green Lake? P. 10** There was no lake, and there was hardly anything green.

Chapters 4, 5, and 6 Pp. 11-25

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

desolate (7, 11) deserted; bleak; barren; isolated

testified (7, 23) make a statement based on personal knowledge or belief; bear witness

destiny (7, 24) fate; lot; luck; fortune

despicable (12, 25) shameful; vile; wicked; contemptible; dreadful; loathsome

Comprehension Questions

- 1. When Stanley got to camp, how was he feeling? P. 11** Stanley's mouth was dry, his throat hurt, and he was thirsty. His wrist hurt from being handcuffed.
- 2. Why did Mr. Sir have a burlap sack of sunflower seeds sitting next to him? P. 12** He had quit smoking, and the sunflower seeds helped keep him from smoking.
- 3. What did every "camper" have to do everyday? P. 13** They had to dig a hole, 7 days a week, measuring 5 feet deep and 5 feet across in all directions.
- 4. Why weren't there any guards or any other barriers to keep the boys from running away the camp? Pp. 14-15** There was no place to run to get away.
- 5. Who was Mr. Pendanski? P. 16** He was the counselor for Stanley's assigned tent.
- 6. Of whom was Stanley supposed to be especially afraid? Pp. 16-17** the Warden
- 7. Why did Mom say Zero was nicknamed Zero? P. 19** Zero was his name because there was nothing inside his head.
- 8. Why did the judge think Camp Green Lake would help Stanley? P. 25** He believed that the discipline of the camp would help Stanley's character. It was either the camp or jail since the shoes were worth at least \$5000.

Key Questions

Answer in complete sentences.

Name _____

Part One You Are Entering Camp Green Lake

Chapter 2 Describe Stanley Yelnats. _____

Chapter 5 Why did Mom say Zero was nicknamed Zero? _____

Chapter 9 Why did X-Ray say the fun of digging a hole was gone? _____

Chapter 15 Why did Warden have Zero take over X-Ray's hole? _____

Chapter 20 Why did Warden tell Stanley that unfortunately for Stanley Mr. Sir would not die? _____

Key Questions Answer Key

Answer in sentences.

Name _____

Part One You Are Entering Camp Green Lake

Chapter 2 Describe Stanley Yelnats.

Stanley was an overweight kid from a poor family, sent to Camp Green Lake instead of jail. He was happy to go to camp because he had never been to camp.

Chapter 5 Why did Mom say Zero was nicknamed Zero?

Zero was nicknamed Zero because there was nothing inside his head.

Chapter 9 Why did X-Ray say the fun of digging a hole was gone?

The fun was gone because once a kid dug the first hole his curiosity about digging a hole to China was over. The next hole would be the hardest.

Chapter 15 Why did Warden have Zero take over X-Ray's hole?

Zero was the fastest digger.

Chapter 20 Why did Warden tell Stanley that unfortunately for Stanley Mr. Sir would not die?

Warden scratched Mr. Sir with her rattlesnake venom nail polish on her nails because she didn't want Mr. Sir to bother her with such trivial matters such as the stolen sunflower seeds. Since Mr. Sir wouldn't die, he would get even with Stanley.

Vocabulary Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the included word list.

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

4. _____ Meaning: _____

5. _____ Meaning: _____

6. _____ Meaning: _____

7. _____ Meaning: _____

8. _____ Meaning: _____

9. _____ Meaning: _____

10. _____ Meaning: _____

Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Answer five comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Vocabulary and Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the word list.

1. _____ **Meaning:** _____

2. _____ **Meaning:** _____

3. _____ **Meaning:** _____

Answer three comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
