

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #1

Pages: 9-10

Summary: This chapter describes Camp Green Lake

Discuss these questions:

What is Camp Green Lake like? (hot, dry, flat, wasteland)

What is the town of Green Lake like? (there is no town, all the people left)

What is the rule to remember about snakes and scorpions? (If you don't bother them, they won't bother you)

What's the worst thing to be bitten by? (Yellow spotted lizard, a slow painful death.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Write a description of Camp Green Lake, use as many details as you can.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING/BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #2

Pages: 11

Summary: (very brief)

Discuss these questions:

Who goes to Camp Green Lake? (bad boys)

What do they do there? (dig holes in the hot sun)

Was Stanley Yelnats made to go to Camp Green Lake? (No, he was given a choice, and chose it because he thought it was a real camp.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #3

Pages: 12-17

Summary: Stanley takes the bus ride to Camp, and makes the best of the situation. Stanley is described, and so is his life in school, his family life, his family curse and bad luck.

Discuss these questions:

What does Stanley look like? (Overweight)

Why did Stanley's great-great Grandfather have a curse on him? (He stole a pig from a one legged gypsy.)

Does Stanley believe in curses and bad luck? (Yes and no. He says he doesn't, but he blames everything bad on the curse and bad luck.)

Who did Stanley's family blame for everything that went wrong? (The great great grandfather.)

What is unusual about Stanley's name? (It is the same spelled forward and backward: Stanley Yelnats)

What did Stanley's father do? (He was an inventor)

Even though Stanley's family had bad luck, how did they act? (Hopeful)

Stanley's great great grandfather was robbed by a famous outlaw, who was it? (Kissing Kate Barlow)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Even though Stanley's family had bad luck, they remained hopeful. How can YOU have hope even though you're at Arrowhead Ranch? Write one good paragraph with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #4

Pages: 18-23

Summary: Stanley gets off the bus, meets the guard and is thirsty, but the guard and bus driver won't share the cold drinks. Stanley needs to strip, and get his jumpsuit, his canteen, and a cap with a cloth sewn on the back. His assignment is to dig a 5' hole every day, but no one will guard him. If he finds anything interesting he should report it, if the Warden likes it, he will get a day off. He is warned about lizards and told he will always be thirsty.

Discuss these questions:

Why did Mr. Sir eat sunflower seeds? (He had quit smoking and did this instead.)

How many bags of sunflower seeds does he eat a week? (1 large bag)

How many sets of clothing is Stanley given? (2)

What color is the clothing? (Orange)

Why don't they need fences to keep the bad boys in? (There is no water for 100 miles, there is no place they could go.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

We have met the main character Stanley. How are YOU like him? How are YOU different from him? Write one paragraph about how you are like him, and write a second paragraph about how you are different.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #5

Pages: 24-29

Summary: Stanley sees the tents numbered A-F. Stanley is in tent D. He meets Mr. Pendanski, a counselor. He is warned about the warden, he meets the other boys. He finds out that Lewis is in the hospital, and learns that Lewis' nickname is BarfBag. Stanley gets BarfBag's old bed.

Discuss these questions:

What tent is Stanley in? (D)

How did Mr. Pendanski say to remember his name? (Pen – dance – key)

What is Mr. Pendanski's nickname? (MOM)

Why do the boys call Mr. Pendanski that name? (He cares so much)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Write a paragraph telling each of the other boys' names and nicknames, and a description of each one.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #6

Pages: 30-36

Summary: Stanley showers, has dinner and goes to bed. Stanley tells the others about stealing Sweet Feet's sneakers. The story of how Stanley really got the sneakers is explained.

Discuss these questions:

What sport did Clyde "Sweet Feet" Livingston play? (baseball)

How did "Sweet Feet" get that nickname? (by stealing many bases)

How did Stanley get "Sweet Feet's" sneakers? (they fell from the sky when he was walking under an underpass)

What was unusual about the sneakers? (They smelled very bad)

Who was supposed to have these sneakers? (a shelter for homeless people, they were going to auction them off to raise money for the shelter.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Was Stanley's problem bad luck, destiny, or the fault of the curse on his great great grandfather, and why?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #7

Pages: 37-56

Summary: Stanley was woken very early, before sunrise to go start digging. Xray had his own shovel. The lake bed was full of holes. Mr. Pendanski told them that Mr. Sir will come with a water truck, and if they find anything interesting they should turn it in and if the Warden likes it they get the rest of the day off.

They tell the story of Stanley's great great grandfather and his love for a pretty (but stupid) girl named Myra in Latvia. Another man called Igor also loved her and brought a fat pig to her father for Myra. Elya Yelnats got advice from Madame Zeroni who told him to carry a piglet every day up to a mountain to a certain stream, and sing a certain song to it. On Myra's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, Elya was to carry Madame Zeroni up the mountain and sing to her, or his family would be cursed. Elya did it, except on the last day he bathed and brought the pig to Myra's father, who said both pigs were the same. Myra couldn't decide between the two men, so she had them pick a number. Elya gave the pig and went to America as a deck hand. He never did carry Madame Zeroni up the mountain, and remembered it later. Elya met and married a woman in America, and they translated the song into English.

Stanley finished his first hole with difficulty. Zero was the smallest boy but he finished first.

Discuss these questions:

"You're not in the Girl Scouts" ...what does this really mean? (It means it isn't easy here.)

How did carrying the pig help the great great grandfather? (It made him stronger)

How is sweating good for you? (It cools you off)

Where do the boys go to the restroom when they are digging? (In a hole)

What do the boys always do when they finish digging a hole? (Spit in it)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

How is Stanley's work and his great great grandfather's carrying the pig similar kinds of work?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #8

Pages: 57-58

Summary: Description of yellow spotted lizard

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: # 9

Pages: 59-64

Summary: Stanley showers in the cold shower, only briefly, and enjoys it. He goes to the WRECK room and notices how shabby and poor the conditions are. He begins to write a letter to his Mom as if it were a real camp. He trips over a boy they call "Caveman", but then learns that really the rest of the boys have nicknamed him "Caveman".

Discuss these questions:

Why did Stanley like the cold, short shower? (He was so hot and tired it felt good)

Why did the door to the recreation room say WRECK room? ( Because the room was a wreck, a mess.) (It's a joke, on RECREATION room)

Why did Xray say that digging a hole is fun? (Because most guys have always wanted to dig a deep hole.)

Why did Stanley's letter to his Mom make it sound like a real camp? (So she wouldn't worry about him)

What letter did "Sweet Feet's" shoes have on them? (a red "X")

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why is "Caveman" a good nickname for Stanley?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #10

Pages: 65-69

Summary: Stanley woke up very achy, and was sore while digging the next hole. He had learned not to dump the dirt too close to the opening. As he was digging he found something. He thought it was a rock or a fossil. He gave it to Mr. Pedanski, but they said it wasn't interesting enough.

Discuss these questions:

Why was Stanley so achy? (From all the digging the day before)

Before the sun came up, Stanley didn't wear his hat. Why did he HAVE to put it on after the sun came up? (To protect against more sunburn)

Why did the hat have a cloth sewn on the back of it? (To protect his neck from sunburn)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Mr. Pendanski said that the warden wasn't interested in rocks or fossils.

What do you think the warden would be interested in if the boys dug it up?

Guess why you think they have to dig holes and look for things!

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #11  
Pages: 70-73

Summary: Xray asks Stanley to let him know first if he finds anything else. Xray admits that he doesn't see very well, and can't find anything. He says it isn't fair that a new boy should find things and get a day off. Stanley thought it was interesting that a small boy like Xray would be a leader of the group. He decided that he was happy with his nickname, Caveman. As he dug more, he imagined getting revenge on his old school's bully.

Discuss these questions:

Does Xray see very well? (No)

Why does Xray want to have Stanley tell him first if he finds anything? (So Xray will get the day off.)

Does the biggest boy usually become the leader? What kind of boy usually becomes the leader ( Many answers are possible)

Why does Stanley like the name Caveman? (It shows the others accept him)

Who is the biggest boy in the group now? (Stanley)

X-Ray is pig-Latin for what name? (Rex)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

How did it help Stanley to imagine getting revenge on the bully?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #12  
Pages: 74-78

Summary: Again, Stanley was the last to finish. He finds everyone else in a circle discussing their lives. Mr. Pendanski says that you can accomplish anything if you set your mind to it. Mr. Pendanski tries to get Stanley to take responsibility for his trouble, but Stanley blames his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. When they talk about what Zero wants to do, he says he just wants to dig holes.

Questions to discuss:

What thing did Stanley think he wanted to do with his life? (F.B.I.)  
What does Magnet want to do? (Animal trainer, vet)  
This was the first time Stanley saw Zero do what? (Smile)

Possible thing to write about in journal:

Why is Mr. Pendanski asking these questions? What is he trying to get the boys to think about?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #13

Pages: 79-84

Summary: Stanley was getting tougher, it didn't hurt so much to dig holes. He saw something glisten in the dirt, it was a gold tube, engraved with an outline of a heart and the letters KB on it. He tried to think of some way out of giving it to X-Ray, but Zigzag saw him and he had to tell. They thought it was probably a shotgun shell, and Stanley suggested that X-Ray wait until the next day to tell about it so he'd get a whole day off. When the water truck came, Stanley got to move up a place in line.

Discuss these questions:

How was this object described? (gold tube, about as long and as wide as the second finger on your right hand...open on one end and closed on the other.)

How long had Stanley been at Camp Green Lake? (2 weeks)

Who was it who thought the object looked like a shotgun shell? (Squid)

Why did Stanley get to move up in line? (He had helped X-Ray)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Stanley was trying to decide whether to help X-Ray or be selfish. Then, he was discovered before he could decide. Why should he have been selfish?

Why should he have given the object to X-Ray?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING/BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #14

Pages: 85-89

Summary: The next morning, X-Ray snaps at Stanley, and won't talk with him. X-Ray claims to have found the object, and shortly afterward the warden comes. The warden is a woman, she has Mr. Pendanski drive X-Ray back to camp, and she orders Mr. Pendanski to refill the canteens.

Discuss these questions:

Why do you think X-Ray is so crabby that morning? (Maybe he feels guilty about what he is going to do.)

What time of day is it when X-Ray claims to find the object? (Right after sunrise, when the water truck first comes)

What does the Warden look like? Tall woman with red hair, wearing a cowboy hat and black cowboy boots with turquoise stones, lots of freckles, red fingernails.)

What is the Warden like? (She rewards X-Ray generously, she is very demanding with Mr. Pendanski, she is very bossy, she is sarcastic)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

The Warden obviously is interested in the object. Write a paragraph predicting what the object is and why she is interested.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #15

Pages: 90-93

Summary: The Warden inspected the dirtpile she thought the object had come from, then she has the rest of the boys dig twice to inspect the dirt. She stays around inspecting everything they do, and the boys have to dig larger holes and carry away the dirt.

Discuss these questions

The boys aren't just digging to build character, they are digging for a reason, what is it? (They are digging because the Warden wants to look for something that is buried.)

Stanley thinks that X-Ray was crabby because of what? (Because maybe there was a hidden camera or microphone and the warden was listening.)

Were they ever thirsty that day? (No, their canteens were kept full.)

Why did the boys think that the Warden knew all their names? (They thought she had cameras or microphones hidden around)

Were the boys digging the right place to find more objects? (No, the object had been found the day before in another area.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Write why you think Stanley is going to try to remember exactly where his hole had been the day before.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #16

Pages: 94-97

Summary: That night, X-Ray is in a good mood, and he treats Stanley well. The next day, they dig more. By lunch time the Warden is impatient because they haven't found any more interesting objects. They have to work faster. Stanley thinks he should tell where the object really was. That night, Stanley gets a letter from his mother, and Zero asks about it, and doesn't seem to understand what Stanley says.

Discuss these questions

Why does X-Ray treat Stanley better that night? (He is happy because he got the day off)

Why does Stanley push the wheelbarrow instead of digging? (Because he is such a slow digger)

Does Stanley's mother know how Camp Green Lake is? (No, she thinks it is more like a real camp / or maybe she does and is hiding it too.)

What news does Stanley's mother have in the letter? (Stanley's dad is close to a breakthrough on his smelly sneaker project.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Do you think that Stanley's mother really knows it is a bad place? Tell why you think the way you do.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #17

Pages: 99-101

Summary: The boys have to keep digging around the area for a week and a half, and the Warden becomes more and more impatient about finding something. She jabs at Armpit and it bleeds. Stanley gets hurt when Zigzag's shovel accidentally hits his head, but he has to keep working. Zigzag makes him lift the dirt that had been in his shovel when he was hurt.

Discuss these questions

What does the Warden hurt Armpit with? (A pitchfork)

Where is Stanley hurt? (He has a gash on the side of his neck, below his ear)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

What should you do if a friend is gashed like Stanley was? (What is the proper thing to do?)

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: #18

Pages: 102-105

Summary: The next day they dig regular holes in another part of the lakebed. Stanley hurts from his injury, but his muscles are stronger now. That night he begins to write to his mother, and Zero comes in and watches him. Zero admits that he can't read or write, and he wants Stanley to teach him. Stanley says that he can't teach, because he is too tired.

Discuss these questions

What could be causing Stanley's head to throb? (Infection, concussion)  
Stanley thinks he needs to save his energy for the people who "counted"...  
what does that mean? (It means he doesn't think that Zero is worthwhile, that X-Ray is more important because X-Ray is the leader, etc.)  
Zero says that Stanley doesn't need to teach him to write, only to read...  
why? (Zero has no one to write to)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Stanley writes his mother that the hard work is building character. Is it?  
(Stanley is becoming stronger, he is learning to work hard, he is learning responsibility, but it probably isn't helping him become a better person.)

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR: