

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #19

Pages: 106-112

Summary: Stanley hears Squid cry at night, but Squid denies it the next morning. Stanley realizes they are all dangerous boys, and he keeps quiet. That day, Magnet steals Mr. Sir's sunflower seeds, and they spill in Stanley's hole. When Mr. Sir comes back, Stanley takes the blame for stealing the sack of sunflower seeds. Mr. Sir drives him to go to see the Warden.

Discuss these questions

Stanley wonders why there weren't any more racial tensions. What race is each boy? (X-Ray, Armpit & Zero are black, Stanley, Squid & Zigzag are white, and Magnet is Hispanic.)

What does Stanley mean when he says that they were all the same: reddish brown? (They are all the color of the dirt they dig in all day)

Why is Magnet's nickname Magnet? (because he is a thief, a pickpocket, his hands are like magnets...)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why did Stanley take the blame for stealing the sunflower seeds? Is he really just trying to take care of himself? Explain.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ON READING / BEHAVIOR

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #20

Pages: 112-116

Summary: Mr. Sir takes Stanley to see the Warden, and Stanley enjoys the air-conditioning. When he tells his story, the Warden sends him to get a flowered case, and she shows him nail polish inside that she says is poisoned with rattlesnake venom, and she scratches Mr. Sir, and sends Stanley back to keep digging.

Discuss these questions

Why does Stanley feel like a condemned man at first? (He is going to the Warden, and everyone has warned him to stay away from her.)

When is the nail polish supposed to be harmful? (when it is wet)

When her nail touches Stanley's wound, how does it feel? (It tingles and hurts)

Why does she hurt Mr. Sir? (Because she doesn't care about his sunflower seeds and she doesn't want him to bother her.)

How is Stanley supposed to get back to the holes? (Walk)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Do you think the nail polish is really poisonous? Explain why or why not.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #21

Pages: 117-119

Summary: Stanley walks back to the holes and thinks about his great grandfather who was robbed by Kissing Kate, and who survived by living on God's thumb. When he got back, his hole was nearly finished... and Zero's hole was smaller than the others.

Discuss these questions

Why do you think the author is telling us about Stanley's family? (Many ideas)

How did Stanley's great grandfather survive? (by finding refuge on God's thumb)

Who had rescued him? (rattlesnake hunters)

Was he crazy? (Stanley thought he might have been)

Why had someone worked on Stanley's hole? (Because he took the blame for the sunflower seeds, someone had dug his hole for him.)

Who do you think dug the hole? Why? (Zero, because his hole was smallest, and he was usually the first one done.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why didn't Stanley tell them about the poison fingernail polish? Explain your ideas.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #22

Pages: 120-126

Summary: Stanley was done first, and that night he asked Zero why he had done it. Zero said it was because Stanley hadn't stolen the sunflower seeds or the sneakers. Stanley offers to teach Zero to read. He teaches him the alphabet, then begins the letters one at a time. He is amazed at how Zero can figure things out quickly. Zero offers to continue to dig some of Stanley's hole each day. Stanley realizes that the object he found was a lipstick tube, with the same initials on it as Kate Barlow.

Discuss these questions

How do you think Zero knew that Stanley hadn't stolen the sneakers? (He figured things out, he saw that Stanley wasn't that kind of guy)

Who was Kate Barlow? (The Kissing Bandit who robbed Stanley's great grandfather and left him in the desert)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Describe how Stanley and Zero will be helping each other.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #23

Pages: 127-130

Summary: Description of the history of Green Lake: 110 years ago it was a lake, picnics were held there on the 4th of July, Kate Barlow always won prizes for her spiced peaches which was “food for the angels”. She was the town’s school teacher, and she was loved by Trout Walker (his feet smelled like fish) who was loud and stupid. Trout wanted to take her for a boat ride, but she wasn’t interested.

Discuss these questions

What person in Stanley’s time also had a foot fungus that made his feet stink? (“Sweet Feet” Livingston)

What other person in our story is concerned with smelly feet? (Stanley’s dad, who wants to invent a cure.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

When Trout Walker was angry with Kate Barlow, he said “No one ever says no to Trout Walker!” How do you think the lipstick tube with the KB got where it was found by Stanley?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #24

Pages: 131-134

Summary: When Stanley woke the next morning, he saw Mr. Sir's face, all swollen and purple. When Mr. Sir came with the water truck that afternoon, he poured the water next to Stanley's canteen, not in it.

Discuss these questions

What caused Mr. Sir's swelling? (The poison fingernail polish)

What happened to a boy who asked about it? (He was roughed up by Mr. Sir)

Why didn't Stanley let Zero dig his hole? (He wanted to stay busy)

Why did Mr. Sir pour out Stanley's water? (He was mad at Stanley because the whole sunflower seed incident is what had made the Warden scratch him.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

If you were Stanley, and if you wrote in a journal about what you did every day, write about this day: "Dear Diary, today when I woke up and went to breakfast, I saw Mr. Sir's face. ..."

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #25

Pages: 135-140

Summary: More History about Green Lake: Sick people in town would see Dr. Hawthorne or Sam the onion man. Sam the onion man told everyone to eat onions, that onions would cure whatever was wrong with them. Sam would fix things for Kate Barlow in exchange for her spiced peaches. She fell in love with him, and they kissed in the rain, (which was not acceptable in those days.)

Discuss these questions

What was Sam the onion man's donkey's name? (Mary Lou)

How old was the donkey supposed to be? (50)

What things were onions supposed to cure? (baldness, digestion, liver, stomach, heart, brain, etc.)

Why did Kate Barlow keep asking Sam to fix things? (So she could be near him)

We learned that kissing someone in public wasn't acceptable a hundred years ago. We also know that it wasn't acceptable for a white woman to kiss a black man. How do we know that Sam the onion man was black? (DARK fingers, page 136 ...Negro 138)

Possible things for them to write in their journals:

List three other things that are acceptable today, that didn't used to be acceptable years ago. Check with others to make sure that those things really are acceptable!

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #26

Pages: 141-145

Summary: Trout Walker led people to the school house and called Kate Barlow a "Devil Woman" for having kissed Sam in public. She ran to the sheriff who was a drunk, and no help at all. Trout Walker caught Kate and Sam on the lake where Kate was rescued, but Trout and Sam were killed. Then Kate killed the sheriff and kissed him, which is how she became Kate Barlow, the Kissing Bandit.

Discuss these questions

Why didn't children go to school that day? (Their parents wouldn't let them because of what Kate had done.)

What did the people do to the school house? (Burned it)

Trout Walker led the people against Kate, but also had them burn the books.

Why do you think he did that? (To get back at her, because he was stupid, and jealous of people who could read.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

The sheriff had predicted that God would punish Kate Barlow, but who was punished, and why?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #27

Pages: 146-150

Summary: Stanley continued digging, Zero would help him with his holes. Mr. Sir's scratches were beginning to heal. When Mr. Sir secretly filled Stanley's canteen, Stanley then poured it out. Stanley had taught Zero all the alphabet letters, and how to spell his name. Zero said his real name was Hector Zeroni.

Discuss these questions

Why did Stanley pour out the canteen of water? (He wasn't sure what awful stuff Mr. Sir had put in there, and was so thirsty he was afraid he would drink it.)

Why did they call Hector Zero? (His last name was Zeroni)

Where have we heard the name Zeroni before? (Chapter 7)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

What is the connection between the two people named Zeroni?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #28

Pages: 151-155

Summary: After 20 years of being the Kissing Bandit, Kate Barlow returned to Green Lake. Most of the lake had dried up. Trout Walker found her and tried to rob her of the riches she had stole through the years. They decided that Kate had buried the riches in the lake bed. They tried to torture her, but she never told them where it was.

Discuss these questions

Where did Kate Barlow live when she returned to the area? (A little log cabin on what used to be the edge of the lake, with 2 trees by it, possibly the Warden's cabin?)

Who had married Trout Walker? (Linda, a former student of Kate's)

How did they figure out that she had buried the treasure? (It was the shovel in her cabin)

What killed Kate Barlow? (A spotted lizard)

What were Kate Barlow's last words? (Start digging)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

There is another connection in this story from the past that connects it to something in Stanley's time... boots. Find the connection and explain the two people and what the connection is.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #29 (PART TWO: THE LAST HOLE)

Pages: 159 -161

Summary: It was hot and humid, a storm was on the way. Stanley looked at the sky and the mountains. One rock formation looked like a fist with a thumb sticking up. The thumb of God? Stanley thought of the story of his great grandfather having survived on the thumb of God.

Discuss these questions:

How can you tell how far away a storm is? (Count the seconds between the lightning flash and the thunder, that's how far it is.)

Why did the boys want it to rain? (They were hot and thirsty)

What did Stanley's great grandfather say about how he survived? (Nothing, he just blamed his no-good-pig-stealing-father)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

What would you do if you were in the desert for many days without water?

How would you survive? What would you do, and what would you be careful NOT to do?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #30

Pages: 162-174

Summary: It was Zigzag's birthday, July 8th, and Mr. Sir gave him an extra carton of orange juice. Stanley thought about Kate Barlow and her lipstick tube, and the thumb of God in the mountains. The other boys gave Stanley a hard time about Zero digging his hole, and they begin pushing each other. Zigzag jumps Stanley, who doesn't fight back, but Zero chokes Zigzag. Mr. Pendanski fires his gun, others come running. It comes out about Stanley teaching Zero, and the adults say it's no use teaching Zero to read, he is too stupid. Zero hits Mr. Pendanski with the shovel and leaves. The adults guard the "camp" for Zero to come back, and the Warden talks about repainting her fingernails, and she still wants 7 holes from the 6 boys.

Discuss these questions

Why does Zero fight off Zigzag? (He is protecting his teacher)

Why do the adults think Zero is stupid? (He can't read)

Is Zero stupid? (No, he is the best at math, and he is learning reading well)

Why don't the adults stop Zero from leaving? (There is no place to go)

How long can Zero survive in the desert without food or water? (A few days at the most)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Sometimes when a person like Zero gets mad, he doesn't know how to say what he feels, so he hits and fights. Write down how you could teach Zero how to use his words instead of fighting and hitting.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #31

Pages: 175-179

Summary:

Stanley was angry at himself, and he dug Zero's hole. He wanted to go after Zero but he didn't do it. He tried to think of a plan. Zero didn't come back, and the Warden and others asked if anyone would miss Zero. He was a ward of the state, so they just decided to destroy all the records they had on him.

Discuss these questions

What did Stanley wish that Zero would do? (Find God's thumb)

What did Stanley think was on God's thumb? (Water)

Why did the guards and Warden ask about Zero's family? (They wanted to know if anyone would miss him)

Did Zero have any family? (No, no one)

Why did they decide to erase all records of Zero? (So that if he died, they could deny ever having him at the camp.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why should Stanley tell the Warden about where the lipstick really was found? Why shouldn't he tell her?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #32

Pages: 180-184

Summary: A New Kid was assigned to their group. He always fidgeted, so they nicknamed him Twitch. Stanley was worried about Zero, and thought about him suffering. The next day, when the water truck came around, he stole the truck. It fell into a hole, the airbag went off, and ran away. His canteen was empty.

Discuss these questions

What did Twitch claim he could do? (hot wire a car & disconnect the alarm in less than a minute.)

Why did Stanley steal the truck? (He thought he could drive away and find Zero.)

Why didn't the truck go at first? (It wasn't in gear)

After the crash, why did he run? (He saw Mr. Sir staring at him)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why couldn't he blame his no-good-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather for this ?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #33

Pages: 185-187

Summary: Stanley walked toward where he thought the big thumb would be. He passed many holes, and he looked in them. He saw yellow spotted lizards. He found an empty sunflower seed sack with one seed.

Discuss these questions

Near the camp, the holes were dug in a system. How were they dug far from camp? (In a haphazard way, no system)

Stanley looked in holes, afraid for what he might see, what might he see? (Zero's body)

When he found the one sunflower seed, what did he think? (Lunch)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

What is Stanley's plan now?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Group: _____

Chapter: #34

Pages: 188-191

Summary: Stanley saw a pool of water, or so he thought. He saw the thumb, and he walked toward a large object. It was a boat, upside down, called the Mary Lou. On the side a tunnel went down. He yelled, and someone yelled back. Then an arm with an orange sleeve came out.

Discuss these questions

It wasn't a pool of water Stanley saw, what was it? (a mirage)

The boat was called the Mary Lou. Where else in the story have we heard that name? (Sam the onion man's donkey)

Who in this story wears orange? (The boys at Camp Green Lake)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

If the boat is named the Mary Lou, whose boat would it be? Predict how the story ends.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR: