

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

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

Chapter: #35

Pages: 192-198

Summary: Zero doesn't look good, he is in bad shape. Zero has been living on sploosh under the boat in a tunnel, sploosh tastes of peaches. Zero says he won't go back to camp, and he won't dig any more holes. Stanley shows Zero the mountain that looks like God's thumb.

Discuss these questions

What words describe how Zero looks? (jack-o-lantern, half rotten, sunken eyes, drooping smile, weak, raspy, pale lips, floppy tongue)

Why does Zero look like this? (Starvation, dehydration)

What do you think "sploosh" is? (The old canned spiced peaches)

How old do you think the sploosh is? (over 100 years old)

Why is Zero cramping so badly? (maybe the sploosh, maybe starvation)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

If you were Stanley, what would you do now?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #36

Pages: 199-207

Summary: They pack some unbroken jars in the sack, and head toward the Big Thumb. Zero used the shovel to help him walk. Stanley thought of what he may also need the shovel for. While they walked, Zero asked Stanley to give him some words. Stanley wondered about death and his parents. They came to the edge of the dry lake, and came to cliffs. They helped each other up the big cliffs...Stanley boosted Zero up, and Zero held out the shovel to pull Stanley up. Zero's hands were bleeding from holding the shovel.

Discuss these questions

Why did Zero need the shovel to walk? (He was too weak, he used it like a crutch)

What might Stanley need the shovel for? (To bury Zero when he dies)

When Zero asked for words, what did he want? (He wanted Stanley to give him the letters that spell easy words, like F-U-N)

Why did that help? (It kept their minds off of their pain)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

How did they remain hopeful even when things were bad?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #37

Pages: 208-210

Summary: Stanley becomes worried because they are really almost there, and he isn't sure there will be anything to help them when they get there. They get excited in their climb because they realize there are weeds and bugs.

Discuss these questions

Why are they excited about the weeds and bugs? (There has to be some water for weeds to grow and bugs to live)

How long did it take Zero to figure out the word L-U-N-C-H? (15 minutes)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Pretend that you are Zero. What would you be thinking as you climbed with Stanley?

OR

Zero worked a long time to figure out one word. What can you learn from this?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #38

Pages: 211-214

Summary: Stanley picked Zero up and carried him up. He smelled something, then he slipped and fell in a muddy place. He dug in the mud and drank, then he scooped out water for Zero. He found a smooth round object in the mud, it was an onion. He ate it and shared it with Zero.

Discuss these questions

What happened to the sack and the shovel? (He left them behind)

Is muddy water good to drink? (No, but it is better than no water at all)

What did he tell Zero the  $\frac{1}{2}$  onion was? (A hot fudge sundae)

Why did he say that? (because they were talking about food, and this was food)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Have you ever been very hungry, and when you could eat anything it tasted wonderful? Describe this.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #39

Pages: 215-218

Summary: When Stanley woke up, he saw he was in a meadow. Zero groaned, and it was hard for Stanley to talk. He planned to go down after the shovel to make their water hole bigger, but Zero wanted to tell him something. Zero said he had taken Clyde Livingston's shoes, then Zero relaxed and slept.

Discuss these questions

What does a meadow look like? (Open flat land with weeds and grasses)

Why was it hard for Stanley to talk? (His tongue was probably swollen and dry from dehydration)

Stanley thinks that Zero's talk is delirium, what is that? (craziness from being close to dying)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

If you were close to dying, what important things would you like to say to someone?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #40

Pages: 219-224

Summary: Stanley discovers that the meadow is full of wild onions. It goes back to the story from the past of Sam the onion man, and how people felt that his onions cured their sick families. Stanley and Zero slept a lot, ate a lot of onions and grew stronger. Stanley didn't want to leave Zero to get the shovel. Finally Stanley went, and he was amazed how far he had carried Zero up the mountain.

Discuss these questions

Years ago, what did people use leeches for? (To pull out "bad blood")

Years ago, Sam the onion man sold people what? (onion tonic, onion juice)

How could onions help Stanley and Zero? (Water, some nutrients)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

How could Stanley carry Zero so far?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #41

Pages: 225-228

Summary: Stanley dug the hole deeper, and didn't let Zero help. They were both starting to improve. Zero told Stanley how he stole the shoes from the homeless shelter. He had no parents and was living on the streets. He just took the shoes because he needed them, he couldn't read the sign.

Discuss these questions

How did Zero begin to steal? (His mother taught him)

What do we know about Zero's mother? (She sold a lot of Girl Scout cookies)

What did Zero do with the shoes? (He put them on, and walked out)

Why did he take them off? (Everyone was talking about them, they smelled bad)

Where did Zero put the shoes? (On top of a parked car)

How did Zero get arrested? (Stealing new shoes the next day)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Do you think Zero really learned to steal from his mother? Do you think his mother really sold Girl Scout cookies? Where else have we heard about Girl Scouts in this story?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #42

Pages: 229-234

Summary: After about a week of living on onions, Stanley doesn't smell anything anymore. The boys are better, and Stanley feels happy. He thinks about his life, his and Zero's punishments, possibly living as a fugitive, and possibly looking for buried treasure.

Discuss these questions

Why doesn't Stanley smell anything any more? (He has gotten used to onions)

Stanley and Zero are connected by the crime of stealing Livingston's shoes. Who did the crime, and who got punished for it? (Zero stole the shoes, but Stanley got punished for it)

Stanley thought of living as a fugitive. What did he think about his parents? (he could call them, but he'd always be on the run.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Stanley thought that getting hit by the tennis shoes was fate or destiny, then he thought it was just a coincidence, now he thinks it is destiny again. What do you think?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #43

Pages: 235-246

Summary: Zero remembers having a home and a mother. The boys plan to go back, find the treasure, sneak some food, and get away. Stanley thinks of his parents, he is worried and scared. They go down, and they try not to drink water for as long as they can. Zero remembers his mother leaving him and his stuffed giraffe, and one day not coming back. He lived for a month in a tunnel of a playground in a park. Stanley begins to think more about his parents. Zero corrects Stanley about directions. They hid in a hole as they got close to camp, then when things got quiet they found the hole where Stanley had found the lipstick and went in.

Discuss these questions

The lake bed, with the cliffs all around is described as what? (a fry pan)

What color does Zero remember his room as being? (Yellow)

When Zero's mother left him, what was he supposed to do? (Stay in a certain place, a porch, a block)

What was Zero's stuffed giraffe's name? (Jaffy)

What sad memory does Zero have about living in the park? (A child's birthday party when he was told to go away)

What do the boys do before they go into the hole? (They check it to make sure nothing was in there.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Pretend that you are X-Ray, Zigzag, Magnet, Squid or Twitch; what do you think happened to Stanley and Zero?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #44

Pages: 247-253

Summary: Stanley listens to the sounds of the camp at night, then they go to the hole. Zero goes for water, and comes back with breakfast while Stanley digs. Stanley decides to dig wider instead of deeper because Kate Barlow wouldn't dig deeper. Finally, he hits something hard on the side wall of the hole, it is a metal box. He digs underneath it to free it. When it comes out they see it is a metal suitcase. As Stanley pulls it out of the hole, the Warden thanks him.

Discuss these questions

What sounds did Stanley hear at night from the camp? (Showers, the squeaking Wreck Room door)

What did Zero bring back for breakfast? (Sugar flakes cereal)

How does it taste, and why? (Too sweet because they are used to onions)

Why does Zero always go for water? Why doesn't he let Stanley go?

(Because Stanley makes too much noise, because he is bigger)

How big did the metal box appear to be? (8" tall, 2 feet wide, and as long as Stanley's arm)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

How do you think the Warden knew what they were doing?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #45

Pages: 254-256

Summary: A flashlight beam comes on and lights up Zero. Mr. Sir, Mr. Pendanski and the Warden are at the hole. They see a lizard on the suitcase, and then more lizards everywhere. The adults talk about having a body to give to the “woman” ... The Warden talks about having to dig holes to look for the treasure when she was a child.

Discuss these questions

Why is the hole full of lizards? (It must be a lizard nest)

When the adults talk about a body, whose body is it? (Probably Stanley’s)

Who made the Warden dig holes? (Her parents)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Who do you think the “woman” is that they talked about?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #46

Pages: 257-261

Summary: A lizard jumped at Mr. Pendanski, Mr. Sir shot it. Mr. Pendanski suggests shooting the boys, but the Warden says to wait, their story should be simple to the A.G. about Stanley being bit by a lizard. She said they would bury Zero in one of the holes. Stanley remains hopeful, and imagines a good memory. Mr. Sir said Stanley's lawyer came by and said he was innocent after all. The boys in the camp were waking up, the Warden told the counselors to tell the boys that they didn't have to dig today. Zero gave a thumbs up, and Stanley carefully leaned against the hole's wall.

Discuss these questions

Why did Stanley and Zero have to be very still? (If they moved quickly, a lizard might bite them)

Why did Mr. Sir begin to smoke again? (Tension, he said he'd have nightmares)

Why did the Warden say that they would bury Zero's body in a hole? (So they could hide it, no one would miss him)

Why did they think they would have bodies? (They knew the lizards would bit the boys)

What do you think "the woman" and A.G. mean? (Someone asking about Zero or Stanley)

What does Stanley imagine? (When he and his mother fell in the snow and laughed)

What does the Warden tell Mr. Sir to say is the punishment for boys who didn't do as they were told? (She said to let the boys use their imaginations)

Why does Stanley need to lean on the wall of the hole? (He is tired from standing still so long)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why can't Stanley understand about the lawyer saying that he was innocent after all?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #47

Pages: 262-268

Summary: When the sun came up, the lizards stayed low in the shade, but still on the boys. Zero said "Satan", then "Sa- tan- lee". A tarantula was eaten by one of the lizards. Stanley tried to get out but a lizard's claw on his ankle stopped him. Zero asked if Stanley's first name was the same as his last name, but backwards. Two strangers drove up, a man in a cowboy hat and a Hispanic woman. The woman threatened to file charges against Mrs. Walker and the Camp for child abuse and torture. The Warden said the kids stole the suitcase from her the night before, and were caught in the lizard nest. The man told Stanley not to say anything, but asked why Stanley wasn't released the day before. The Warden said Stanley had been hospitalized, he had been delirious and had been having hallucinations, and there had been no authorization from the Attorney General. Stanley slowly got out of the hole, the lizards went back in the shade. He pulled out Zero. Stanley was dizzy. The Warden tried to get the suitcase, but Zero wouldn't let her, it had Stanley Yelnats written on it.

Discuss these questions

How many spots were on each lizard? (11)

When Zero said "Satan" and "Sa-tan-lee" what was he figuring out? (Stanley's name, on the suitcase)

What does A.G. stand for? (Attorney General)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Who is Mrs. Walker? Where have we heard that name before?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #48

Pages: 269-275

Summary: As they walked back to Camp, they found out that the man was the Texas Attorney General, and the woman was Stanley's lawyer, Ms. Morengo. They gave the boys orange juice and bagels. The Warden says that the suitcase has her things inside of it, and the adults argue about whether Stanley should open it. Then they give Stanley his things, and start to take him away, but Stanley won't leave Hector (Zero). The Warden can't find Zero's files. The other boys come in and are glad to see them, and Squid asks Stanley to tell his mom that he was sorry. They let Zero go because they can't find his records.

Discuss these questions

Do the boys eat breakfast? (They drink the juice, but they don't eat)

Do the lawyer and Attorney General believe the Warden's story about the suitcase? (No, they said that isn't what she first said)

Why can't they find Zero's files? (The Warden had them destroyed when he ran away.)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why did Squid (Alan) say for Stanley to call his mother and apologize?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #49

Pages: 276-279

Summary: (History) There never used to be lizards in the area, but there were red-eyed monsters. The men of the area who hunted rattlesnakes would get lizard juice from Sam the onion man to keep away the monsters. If the men would drink onion juice, it would keep the lizards away.

On the ride back, the lady rolled down the windows, even though the air-conditioning was on. The lady explained how she figured out that Stanley was innocent, and how Stanley's dad had invented something for foot odor that smelled like peaches.

Discuss these questions

Why would the onion juice help keep lizards away? (Smell)

Why did they roll down the windows in the car? (Smell)

How did the lady know that Stanley was innocent? (He was being beat up when the shoes were stolen)

What kind of lawyer is she? (Patent Attorney, working with Stanley's dad)

What began to happen for the first time in a hundred years? (Rain on the lake)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Why did it begin to rain for the first time in a hundred years? Give your ideas.

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR:

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

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

Chapter: #50

Pages: 283-288

Summary: (EPILOGUE)

Stanley's mother says there was no curse, but it is strange that Stanley's dad invented the cure for foot odor on the day after Stanley carried Zero (the great-great-grandson of Madame Zeroni) up the mountain.

Camp Green Lake was closed, and the Warden (Ms. Walker) sold the land to become a Girl Scout camp.

Stanley's self confidence was better, the suitcase contained jewels that weren't worth very much, and some old papers that were worth a lot. Stanley bought his family a new house, and hired a private investigator. A year and a half later, they watched a commercial by Clyde "Sweet Feet" Livingston about Sploosh. Hector's mother sang a song to Hector she knew from her childhood.

Discuss these questions

How did Stanley carrying Zero lift the curse? (The great-great-grandfather had forgotten to carry Madame Zeroni up the mountain, so the great-great-grandson did it to Madame Zeroni's great-great-grandson.)

How much money did Stanley and Zero get? (Almost a million dollars each)

Why did Stanley hire a private investigator? (To look for Zero's mother)

Why do they call the foot deodorant "Sploosh"? (Because it was made from peaches, like the peaches Kate Barlow made, and the old peaches that Zero called Sploosh)

How did Hector's mother know that song? (It was taught from parent to child, starting with her great-great-grandmother, Madame Zeroni)

Possible thing to write about in their journals:

Write about all the different things that were connected in this book ... the stories from Latvia, the stories from Texas 100 years ago, and what happened to Stanley and Zero. Include Ms. Walker, the Warden, who was she and how was she connected, too?

VOCABULARY:

NOTES ABOUT READING / BEHAVIOR: