

Chapters 15—21

Comprehension Check Questions

Chapter 15

1. What changes about the way the boys dig the holes?
2. What does Zigzag tell Stanley when Stanley wonders how the Warden knows their names?
3. What two things does Stanley realize about the digging?
4. Argue whether or not Stanley is unlucky at this point in the book.

Chapter 16

1. How does the mood of the digging change the next day?
2. From whom does Stanley get a letter?
3. What does he learn about his father's project?
4. Assess Zero's reaction to Stanley's questions about the old lady in the shoe.

Chapter 17

1. How does the Warden change as the digging progresses?
2. What does Zigzag do to Stanley? Why?
3. Why do you think Zigzag acts the way he does about Stanley's dirt?
4. Compare Mr. Sir's first aid care for Stanley's wound with first aid care you might get at the school nurse's office or at a hospital. What can you infer from your comparison about the care the camp gives the boys?

Chapter 18

1. What does Stanley learn about Zero?
2. What does Zero ask Stanley?
3. What is Stanley's reply to Zero?
4. Explain how you thought Stanley would react to Zero. Compare what you thought Stanley would say with what he did say to Zero.

Chapter 19

1. What does Magnet do?
2. What happens when Stanley gets the bag?
3. What does Stanley say when Mr. Sir questions him about how he got the bag?
4. Where does Mr. Sir take him?
5. Analyze Stanley's behavior. Why does he tell Mr. Sir that he stole the bag instead of telling him the truth?

Chapter 20

1. Why is Stanley surprised to see holes by the cabin?
2. What does the Warden show Stanley?
3. What does the Warden do to Mr. Sir?
4. Analyze the Warden's behavior toward Mr. Sir. Why does she scratch him?
5. Infer what the Warden means when she says, "He's not going to die...unfortunately for you."

Chapter 21

1. What does Stanley know about his great-grandfathers' experience of being stranded in the desert?
2. Compare Zero's behavior with the other boys'. Why do you think Zero finished digging Stanley's hole?