

Chapters 29—34

Comprehension Check Questions

Chapter 29

1. What land formation has Stanley noticed on the horizon?
2. During a flash of lightning, what shape does he think he sees in the mountains?
3. What family story does Stanley remember?
4. Do you think the rock formation Stanley sees is the same one his great-grandfather found? Why or why not?

Chapter 30

1. How does Stanley feel about Zero digging his hole for him?
2. What does Zigzag do when the boys are digging?
3. What is Mr. Pendanski's role in the fight?
4. What is the Warden's reaction to the news that Stanley is teaching Zero to read? What happens because of that?
5. Trace the important events leading up to Zero's escape.
6. Explain the Warden's statement: "It's almost time for me to paint my nails again."

Chapter 31

1. Why is Stanley angry at himself?
2. Who was waiting for Stanley at his tent? What did they want?
3. What does the Warden tell Mr. Pendanski to do? Why does the Warden want to do that?
4. Devise a plan of action for Stanley at this point in the novel.

Chapter 32

1. What thought keeps haunting Stanley?
2. What does Stanley do?
3. As he starts out across the desert, what happens?
4. Where does Stanley go?
5. Justify Stanley's decision to go after Zero.

Chapter 33

1. What is Stanley's plan?
2. Stanley sees something scary in a hole. What does he see?
3. Assess Stanley's options at this point. What do you think Stanley should do?

Chapter 34

1. What is a mirage? Have you ever seen a mirage? Tell about it.
2. How does Stanley interpret the mountain and the fist and thumb?
3. What else does he see on the lakebed? What is it really? What does he find there?
4. What is the significance of his find?
5. Contrast how Stanley feels at the beginning of the chapter with how he probably feels at the end.