

## Chapters 35—41

### **Comprehension Check Questions**

#### **Chapter 35**

1. What has Zero been drinking to stay alive? What is the concoction and where did it come from originally?
2. What is Zero's reaction to Stanley's idea of taking him back to the camp?
3. What does the sploosh do to Zero? What can you infer is the reason it does this to him?
4. What does Zero think the mountains look like?
5. Evaluate the boys' decision at the end of the chapter. Did they make the right decision? Why or why not?

#### **Chapter 36**

1. What do the boys do to pass time and distract themselves as they walk along?
2. What scares Stanley about death?
3. How does Zero help Stanley climb?
4. What does the Big Thumb look like to Stanley?
5. Infer why Stanley and Zero are so focused on reaching Big Thumb.

#### **Chapter 37**

1. Why is Stanley worried when they are nearly at the mountain?
2. What does Stanley realize about the weeds and bugs?
3. What happens to Zero?
4. Why do you think Stanley tells Zero he's ordered him a hot fudge sundae?

#### **Chapter 38**

1. Where does Stanley find the energy to keep going?
2. What does Stanley realize when he's lying in the mud?
3. Defend why Stanley tells Zero that the onion is a hot fudge sundae.

#### **Chapter 39**

1. Why doesn't Stanley return to the bottom of the hill to retrieve the shovel?
2. What does Zero confess to Stanley?
3. What does Stanley do while Zero sleeps?
4. Appraise Stanley's behavior when he thinks, "Tag, you're it" when he touched the precipice.

#### **Chapter 40**

1. What does Mrs. Tennyson tell Sam?
2. What is Sam's reaction to the news?
3. What happens over the next two days?
4. What does Stanley realize when he goes back down the mountain to get the shovel?
5. Interpret how the flashback about the onions helps the reader understand the story better.

#### **Chapter 41**

1. What was Zero's life like as he was growing up?
2. How did he manage to steal Clyde Livingston's shoes?
3. Why does Zero say he should have kept the shoes?
4. Appraise Zero's statement about keeping the sneakers. Would they both be better off if Zero had kept the shoes?