

Useful Quotes from Holes

Stanley's Story

Chapter 1

"There is no lake at Camp Green Lake." **CHANGES**

"The Warden owns the shade." **CHARACTER**

Chapter 2-3

"If you take a bad boy and make him dig a hole every day in the hot sun, it will turn him into a good boy." **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

"Stanley Yelnats was given a choice. The judge said, "You may go to jail, or you may go to Camp Green Lake." **CHOICES**

"Stanley was not a bad kid. He was innocent of the crime for which he was convicted. He'd just been in the wrong place at the wrong time." **DESTINY**

"Stanley and his parents didn't believe in curses, of course, but whenever anything went wrong, it felt good to be able to blame someone." **CURSE**

"Stanley's father liked to say, "I learn from failure." **RESILIENCE**

"Stanley looked out the dirty window. He couldn't see a lake. And hardly anything was green." **CHANGES**

Chapter 4-5

"You're not in the Girl Scouts anymore," Mr. Sir said." **CHARACTER**

"You're going to be thirsty for the next eighteen months." **RESILIENCE**

"Theodore whirled and grabbed Stanley by his collar. "My name's not Thee-o-dore," he said. "It's Armpit." He threw Stanley to the ground. Stanley stared up at him, terrified." **CHARACTER**

Chapter 6-9

"It was too much of a coincidence to be a mere accident. Stanley had felt like he was holding destiny's shoes." **FATE**

"It wasn't destiny, he realised. It was his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather!" **FATE/CURSE**

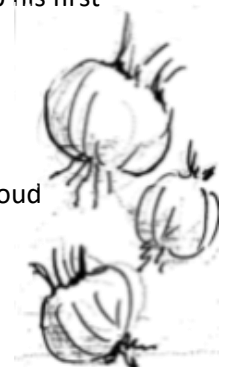
"He smiled. For once in his life it paid to be overweight. He leaned on the shaft and pried up his first shovelful of dirt, then dumped it off to the side. *Only ten million more to go*, he thought." **RESILIENCE**

"The first hole's the hardest," Magnet said." **RESILIENCE**

"Stanley took another look at his hole. He knew it was nothing to be proud of, but he felt proud nonetheless." **RESILIENCE**

"A lot of people don't believe in curses." **CURSE**

"The Caveman's one tough dude." **CHANGE/HIERARCHY RESILIENCE**



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Chapter 10-11

“The Warden isn’t interested in fossils.” CHARACTER

“X-Ray was clearly the leader of the group, and Stanley didn’t want to get on his bad side.” CHARACTER/HIERARCHY

“If he was going to survive at Camp Green Lake, it was far more important that X-Ray think he was a good guy than it was for him to get the day off.” CHARACTER/ CHOICES RESILIENCE

“He was glad they called him Caveman. It meant they accepted him as a member of the group [...] It really was quite remarkable to him.” CHANGES/HIERARCHY RESILIENCE

“He imagined what it would be like if he became good friends with all of them [...] It helped him dig his hole and ease his own suffering.” RESILIENCE

Chapter 12-16

“Nothing in life is easy. But that’s no reason to give up. You’ll be surprised what you can accomplish if you set your mind to it. After all, you only have one life, so you should try to make the most of it.” RESILIENCE

“X-Ray was right: the third hole was the hardest. So was the fourth hole. And the fifth hole. And the sixth, and the...”

“Stanley moved up one place in line.” CHANGES/HIERARCHY/CHARACTER

“One thing was certain: they weren’t just digging to “build character.” They were definitely looking for something.” CONNECTIONS

“By lunchtime the Warden was beginning to lose her patience.” CHARACTER

“I am very proud of you trying to make the best of a bad situation. Who knows? Maybe something good will come of this.” FATE RESILIENCE

Chapter 17-18

“As the days wore on, the Warden became less and less patient [...] The Warden jabbed at Armpit with her pitchfork, knocking him backward into the big hole. The pitchfork left three holes in the front of his shirt, and three tiny spots of blood. “You’re giving these boys too much water,” the Warden told Mr. Pendanski.” CHARACTER

“After digging all day, he didn’t have the strength to try and teach Zero to read and write. He needed to save his energy for the people who counted.” CHARACTER/HIERARCHY RESILIENCE

“His muscles and hands weren’t the only parts of his body that had toughened over the past several weeks. His heart had hardened as well.” CHANGES RESILIENCE

Chapter 19-22

“He didn’t talk too much to any of the boys, afraid that he might say the wrong thing.” CHARACTER/HIERARCHY

“He was in the wrong place at the wrong time. What else is new?” CURSE/FATE

“Stanley wondered if this was how a condemned man felt on his way to the electric chair- appreciating all of the good things in life for the last time.” RESILIENCE



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“He would have expected the Warden to not want the campers digging so close to her home. But several holes were right up against the cabin wall. The holes were closer together here as well, and were of different shapes and sizes.” **CONNECTIONS**

“Stanley was too frightened to speak. “He’s not going to die,” the Warden said. “Unfortunately for you.” **CHARACTER**

“If he didn’t talk about it, then maybe it didn’t happen.” **RESILIENCE**

“I’m not stupid,” Zero said. “I know everybody thinks I am. I just don’t like answering their questions.” **CHARACTER**

“He wondered if there might be some way Zero would agree to dig part of X-Ray’s hole as well. But then again, why should he?” **CHARACTER/HIERARCHY**

“He felt a jolt of astonishment. His mouth silently formed the name Kate Barlow, as he wondered if it really could have belonged to the kissin’ outlaw.” **CONNECTIONS**

Chapter 24 and 27

“If he didn’t talk about it, maybe it would go away.” **RESILIENCE**

“Every time Mr. Sir delivered water, he poured Stanley’s straight onto the ground.” **RESILIENCE**

“Same old story, ain’t it, Armpit?” X-Ray had said. “The white boy sits around while the black boy does all the work.” **DISCRIMINATION**

“My real name is Hector [...] Hector Zeroni.” **CONNECTIONS**

Chapter 29-30

“The peak looked to him like a giant fist, with the thumb sticking straight up. [...] *“I found refuge on God’s thumb”* [...] No one ever knew what he meant by that.” **CONNECTIONS**

“Having had to get by on less water for a week or so, Stanley now felt he had all the water he could want.” **RESILIENCE**

“It was possible, he realised, that he was somewhere near where Kate Barlow had robbed his great-grandfather.” **CONNECTIONS**

“Zigzag offered Stanley his place in line. “Since you’re so much better than me.” **CHARACTER/HIERARCHY**

“Go ahead, Stanley,” [Mr Pendanski] said. “Hit him back. You’re bigger.” **HIERARCHY/CHARACTER**

“The hole still gets dug, so what does it matter who digs it?” **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

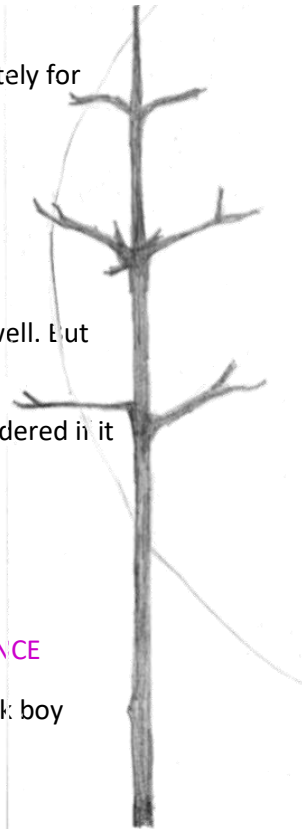
“He knew they weren’t digging just to learn a lesson. She was looking for something, something that belonged to Kissin’ Kate Barlow.” **CONNECTIONS**

Chapter 31-39

“It wasn’t impossible.” **RESILIENCE**

“He had nobody,” said Mr. Pendanski. “He was nobody.” [...] “No one cares about Hector Zeroni.” “Good,” said the Warden.” **CHARACTER**

“Walking helped calm him down and allowed him to think clearly.” **RESILIENCE**



Useful Quotes from Holes

“The name of the boat had been painted on the back [...] *Mary Lou*.” CONNECTIONS

“He thought it might have been some kind of fruit at some time, perhaps peaches.” CONNECTIONS

“Zero wasn’t worried. “When you spend your whole life living in a hole,” he said, “the only way you can go is up.” RESILIENCE

“We’re almost there” RESILIENCE

“As long as Zero could keep going, he could keep going, too.” RESILIENCE

“Now that they really were *almost there*, it scared him. Big Thumb was his only hope.” RESILIENCE

“His strength came from somewhere deep inside himself and also seemed to come from the outside as well.”

“Stanley softly sang him the song that had been in his family for generations.” FATE CONNECTIONS

Chapter 41-43

“If I had just kept those old smelly sneakers, then neither of us would be here right now.” FATE

“He liked himself now.” CHANGE RESILIENCE

“When the shoes fell from the sky, he remembered thinking that destiny had struck him. Now, he thought so again. It was more than a coincidence. It had to be destiny.” FATE/CHANCE

“Just because he found a lipstick container with KB on it, that didn’t mean there was treasure buried there. It was crazy. It was all part of his crazy feeling of happiness. Or maybe it was destiny.” FATE

“He didn’t want to be the first one to take a drink. Although they didn’t mention it, it had become a kind of challenge between him and Zero.” RESILIENCE

Chapter 44-48

“I think I might have found the treasure chest.” FATE/LUCK

“Just so long as I have the suitcase, I don’t care what happens. Do you know how long...” her voice trailed off, then started up again. “When I was little I’d watch my parents dig holes, every weekend and holiday. When I got bigger, I had to dig, too. Even on Christmas.” CHARACTER

“It’s a miracle they’re still alive” FATE CONNECTIONS

“There, in big black letters, was STANLEY YELNATS. The Warden stared at it in disbelief.” FATE CONNECTIONS

“You be careful out in the real world,” said Armpit. “Not everybody is as nice as us.” CHARACTER

Chapter 49-50

“He invented a product that eliminates foot odour [...] Peaches right?” FATE/LUCK CONNECTIONS

“For the first time in over a hundred years, a drop of rain fell into the empty lake.” CHANGES

“Stanley’s mother insists that there was never a curse. [...] Stanley’s father invented his cure for foot odour the day after the great-great-grandson of Elya Yelnats carried the great-great-grandson of Madame Zeroni up the mountain.” CURSE/FATE/CHANCE



Useful Quotes from Holes

“... the changes in Stanley’s character and self-confidence. Those changes are subtle and hard to measure. There is no simple answer.” **CHANGE/CHARACTER**

“You will have to fill in the holes yourself.” **WRITING CHALLENGE ACTIVITY?**

Elya’s Story- Chapter 7

“Madame Zeroni had dark skin and a very wide mouth. When she looked at you, her eyes seemed to expand, and you felt like she was looking right through you.” **CHARACTER**

“Madame Zeroni warned that if he failed to do this, he and his descendants would be doomed for all of eternity. At the time, Elya thought nothing of the curse.” **CURSE**

“He felt terrible. He wasn’t afraid of the curse. He thought that was a lot of nonsense.”
CHARACTER/CURSE

“Bad luck seemed to follow his everywhere. He always seemed to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.” **CURSE/LUCK**

“Elya wasn’t sure what he’d do if he ever found Madame Zeroni’s son anyway. Carry him up a mountain and sing the pig lullaby to him?” **CONNECTIONS/ FORESHADOWING**



Kate’s Story

Chapter 23

“One hundred and ten years ago, Green Lake was the largest lake in Texas.” **CHANGES**

“It was said that Green Lake was ‘heaven on earth’ and that Miss Katherine’s spiced peaches were ‘food for the angels’.” **CONNECTIONS**

“She was a wonderful teacher, full of knowledge and full of life. The children loved her. She taught classes in the evening for adults, and many of the adults loved her as well.” **CHARACTER**

“Trout had always gotten everything he ever wanted [...] “No one ever says ‘no’ to Charles Walker!” “I believe I just did,” said Katherine Barlow.” **CHARACTER/CHOICES**

Chapter 25-26

“He took hold of both her hands, and kissed her [...] “God will punish you!”
CHOICES/DISCRIMINATION

“The Devil Woman!” [...] “She’s been poisoning your children’s brains with books,” Trout declared”
CHANGES

“It’s against the law for a Negro to kiss a white woman [...] It ain’t against the law for you to kiss him, just for him to kiss you.” **DISCRIMINATION**

“Sam was shot and killed in the water [...] That all happened one hundred and ten years ago. Since then, not one drop of rain has fallen on Green Lake. You make the decision: Whom did God punish?”
CHANGES CONNECTIONS

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“Three days after Sam’s death, Miss Katherine shot the sheriff [...] For the next twenty years Kissin’ Kate Barlow was one of the most feared outlaws in all the West.” **CHARACTER/CHANGE**

Chapter 28

“After twenty years, Kate Barlow returned to Green Lake. It was a place where nobody would ever find her- a ghost town on a ghost lake.” **CHANGE**

“I sure hope you like to dig. ‘Cause you’re going to be digging for a long time. You, and your children, and their children, can dig for the next hundred years and you’ll never find it.” **CONNECTIONS**

“Kate Barlow died laughing.” **CHARACTER**

Chapters 40 and 49

“There never used to be yellow-spotted lizards in the town of Green Lake. They didn’t come to the area until after the lake dried up. But the townsfolk had heard about the “red-eyed monsters” living in the desert hills.” **CHANGES**

“The lizards don’t like onion blood.” **CHANGES CONNECTIONS**

