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Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

PART ONE

YOU ARE ENTERING CAMP GREENLAKE

Chapter 1

1. Assume you are sentenced to three months at Camp Green Lake. You know nothing about the camp. Fortunately, you have access to a computer and are able to find a chat room discussing life at Camp Green Lake. Based on the information in Chapter 1, what advice might the boys in the chat room give you about how to survive at Camp Green Lake?

Chapter 2

2. The judge gives Stanley a choice. He can go to jail or he can go to Camp Green Lake. Stanley selects Camp Green Lake because as a poor boy, he has never been to camp. What false expectations do you think Stanley might have about this camp?

Chapter 3

3. Stanley is often teased by the other students because he is overweight. Mrs. Bell embarrasses Stanley in class when she makes Stanley weigh himself in front of the class to help her to teach the class about ratios. Write about a time an insensitive teacher or other person in authority caused you pain and embarrassment.

Holes

8. Mr. Sir fails to show Stanley any kindness. For example, he does not give him a soda, but he says that he (Mr. Sir) would not waste a bullet on him (Stanley). Why do you suppose he behaves in this way?

Chapter 5

9. Armpit throws Stanley to the ground when Stanley refers to him as Theodore instead of using his nickname. Write a letter to Stanley explaining to him why Armpit prefers his nickname.

Chapter 6

10. Clyde Livingston is Stanley's hero. The worst part of the trial for Stanley is when Clyde says he cannot "imagine what kind of horrible person would steal from homeless children." Write about a famous person that you admire. Under what circumstances would you *not* like to meet this person?
11. The shoes seem to fall out of the sky and hit Stanley on the head. He thinks the incident is a sign. "Stanley had felt like he was holding destiny's shoes." He has a feeling or a moment of intuition that there is something special about the shoes. Have you ever experienced a similar feeling of intuition or destiny about an event in your life? Does your feeling turn out to be a good predictor of the future?
12. Derrick Dunne is smaller than Stanley, but he is still able to bully Stanley at school. Write a letter to Stanley discussing school bullies. Either give Stanley some advice on how to handle bullies like Derrick, or explain how it feels to be bullied.

Chapter 13

25. Stanley decides to give the gold tube to X-Ray instead of showing it to Mr. Sir himself. Rewrite the end of this chapter differently. Assume that Stanley does not give the tube to X-Ray. What do you think would have happened if he gave it directly to Mr. Sir when the water truck came?
26. This story is a mystery with clues and possibly a buried treasure. Imagine that you have been granted three questions by a genie who lives in the hole. The questions must concern what might happen in the remaining chapters in the story. What three questions might you ask?
27. As X-Ray, write a diary entry discussing why you believe Caveman is an intelligent, loyal boy. Include in the diary entry how you, as X-Ray, compensate the Caveman for his loyalty.

Chapter 14

28. As Stanley, in a letter home, describe the Warden's appearance and behavior. Include the reasons Stanley is surprised when he meets the Warden.

Chapter 15

29. Stanley learns from Zigzag that the Warden has hidden microphones and cameras all over the camp. Imagine that Stanley and the others send a letter to the judge complaining about the unlawful invasion of their privacy. What might they write in this letter?
30. In the last paragraph of this chapter, Stanley makes a point to remember where he originally dug up the gold tube: "He dug the hole into his memory." Why do you suppose he does this?

Chapter 20

38. The Warden does not scratch Stanley with her rattlesnake-venom painted nails. Instead, she strikes and scratches Mr. Sir's face. Why do you suppose she behaves this way?
39. How do you think Stanley feels while watching Mr. Sir writhe on the floor in pain?

Chapter 21

40. While on the bus traveling to Camp Green Lake for the first time, Stanley hoped he would be able to make friends. Write a list of what you think are ten qualities of a true friend.
41. Stanley does not tell the other boys about the Warden's rattlesnake nail polish because "if he didn't talk about it, then maybe it didn't happen." Most people have felt this way at one time or another in their lives. Write about a time in your life when you tried to ignore a problem, hoping the problem might go away.
42. Pick one of the major characters, and make a list of one-word adjectives that describe the person.