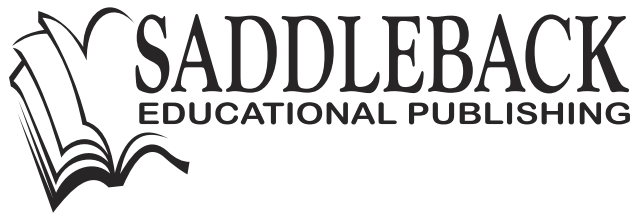




Focus **ON READING**

Holes

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Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

shriveled—shrank and wrinkled
convicted—found guilty of a crime
perseverance—the ability to stick with a task despite obstacles
canteen—a container or flask for carrying water to drink
counselor—one who advises
sanitary—clean; free from germs

scarcity—insufficient amount
coincidence—events that accidentally happen at the same time but seem planned
despicable—something despised; contemptible
grimaced—made a face showing disgust

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **warden** is a person in charge of a prison who oversees the activities of the inmates.

When a person is suspected of committing a crime, he or she is usually arrested and tried in court. If the judge or jury feels that the person is guilty, he or she is convicted and sentenced, or given some punishment.

A juvenile correction facility is a place where young people, usually teenagers, are sent to be reformed. The routine there usually consists of exercise, military activities such as marching, and education. The goal of the facility is to improve the body, mind, and attitude of the offender and make him or her a better citizen.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Which wild animal at Camp Green Lake do the campers fear most? Why?
2. What luck did Stanley's great-grandfather have? What misfortune did he endure? Overall, was he lucky or unlucky?
3. Why doesn't Camp Green Lake have a fence around it and guard towers, as some prisons do?
4. How do you think Stanley feels about Mr. Sir? How does he probably feel about Mr. Pendanski?
5. If Elya loved Myra, why didn't he choose a number and try to win her as his wife?