

Holes

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Stanley Yelnats is introduced on page 5 when the judge asks Stanley if he will choose "jail, or... Camp Green Lake." (Sachar, 5). From this I believe that Stanley must be a very "troubled" person since he has committed a crime serious enough to lead to a jail sentence. Sachar goes on to tell us that "Stanley was from a poor family." (5) This may indicate that Stanley's crime was a result of his poverty- for example, theft. Stanley seems to be an unusual sort of criminal since he is bringing "toothbrush, toothpaste, ... stationary" (Sachar, 6) to jail/camp with him. The first pieces of information we are given about Stanley are interesting and make me curious about the type of character who is poor and a criminal; but, cares enough about his mom to promise to "write... at least once a week." (Sachar, 6) Sachar has used the technique of starting with a 'climatic moment' very effectively. We meet Stanley at a moment of crisis as he is being sentenced for the crime he has committed.

Despite the first scenes with Stanley, we quickly discover that he is an optimist because he tries "to pretend that he is going to Camp Fun and Games." (Sachar, 7) He is also hoping to "make some friends...[and] swim in the lake." (Sachar, 7) This also indicates that Stanley is imaginative and possibly a little immature. Stanley is described as "overweight" (Sachar, 7) and he doesn't have "any friends at home" (7). Overall Stanley seems to be an interesting character and I am not sure yet what to think of him. He is a criminal and yet there seems to be signs that there is more to learn about Stanley. This is a very intriguing introduction to a character.