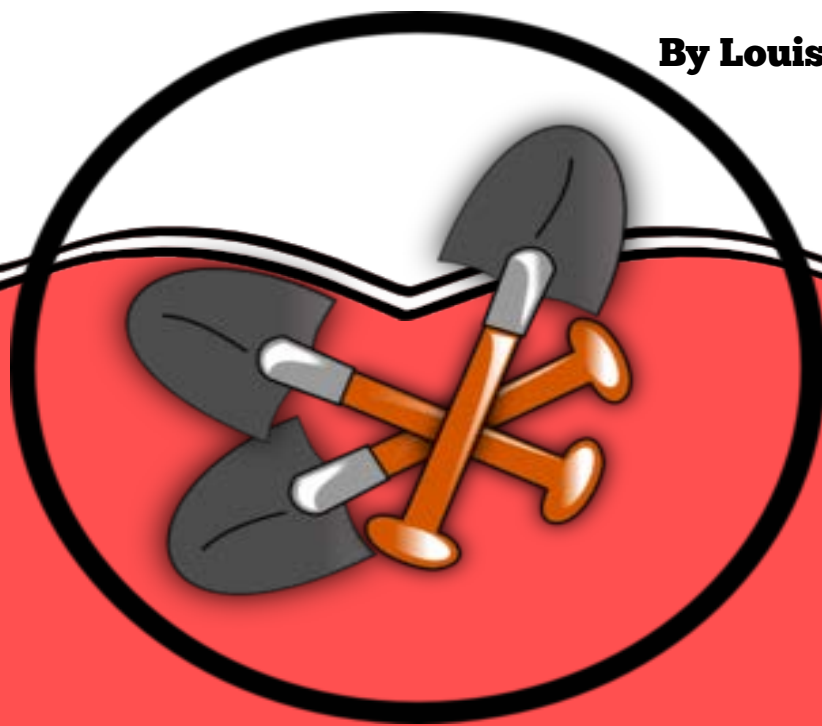


# Teaching Unit For Holes

By Louis Sachar



## ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

# Teaching Unit for Holes

By: Louis Sachar

By Tammy D. Sutherland and Shannon B. Temple

[www.elacoreplans.com](http://www.elacoreplans.com)



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# HOLES

## Chapter 1

### Welcome to Camp Green Lake

*There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. (Page 3)*

The reader begins to learn about the setting of this novel with the very first sentence.

Complete the following chart to record the details about Camp Green Lake.

What it looks like	The history of Camp Green Lake	The temperature in the summer	Dangers	The worst thing that can happen to you at this camp

### Comprehension Questions

Who owns the shade?

What do the campers do at Camp Green Lake?

### Research

Is there really such a thing as a yellow-spotted lizard?

# HOLES

## Chapter 2

### Silent Passage Analysis

*If you take a bad boy and make him dig a hole everyday in the hot sun, it will turn him into a good boy.*

With your partner, write back and forth about this statement. You may not talk; you can only write. Do not write about anything other than this statement. Include your opinions, why it could work or why it would never work. Your teacher will tell you when the activity is complete.

Partner 1 Comment:

Partner 2 Comment/response:

Partner 1 Comment/response:

Partner 2 Comment/response:

Partner 1 Comment/response:

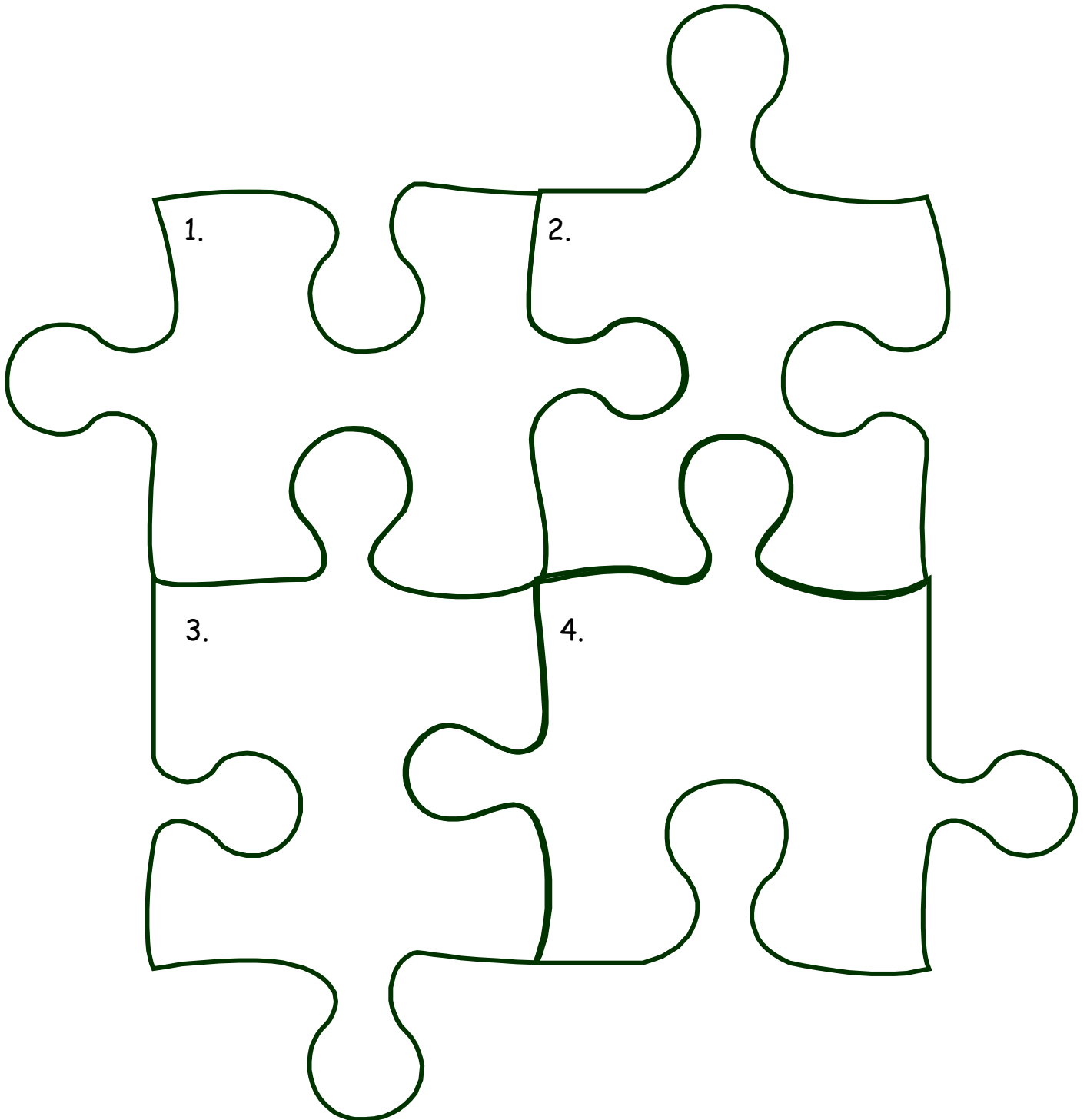
Partner 2 Comment/response

# HOLES

## Chapter 3

Who is Stanley? Piece it together.

In puzzle piece 1, write down things that you have learned about Stanley's father.  
In puzzle piece 2, write down words to describe Stanley's looks and personality.  
In puzzle piece 3, write down what you know about Stanley's great- great- grandfather.  
In puzzle piece 4, write down what you know about why Stanley must go to Camp Green Lake.



# HOLES

## Chapters 4 & 5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Directions:

After reading chapters four and five, complete the following chart. Then, answer the discussion questions below the chart.

<b>The Rules for Camp Green Lake According to Mr. Sir</b>	<b>The One Rule for Camp Green Lake According to Mr. Pendanski</b>
1.  2.  3.  4.  5.	1.

1. What do the differences in the men's rules let the reader know about them as characters? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

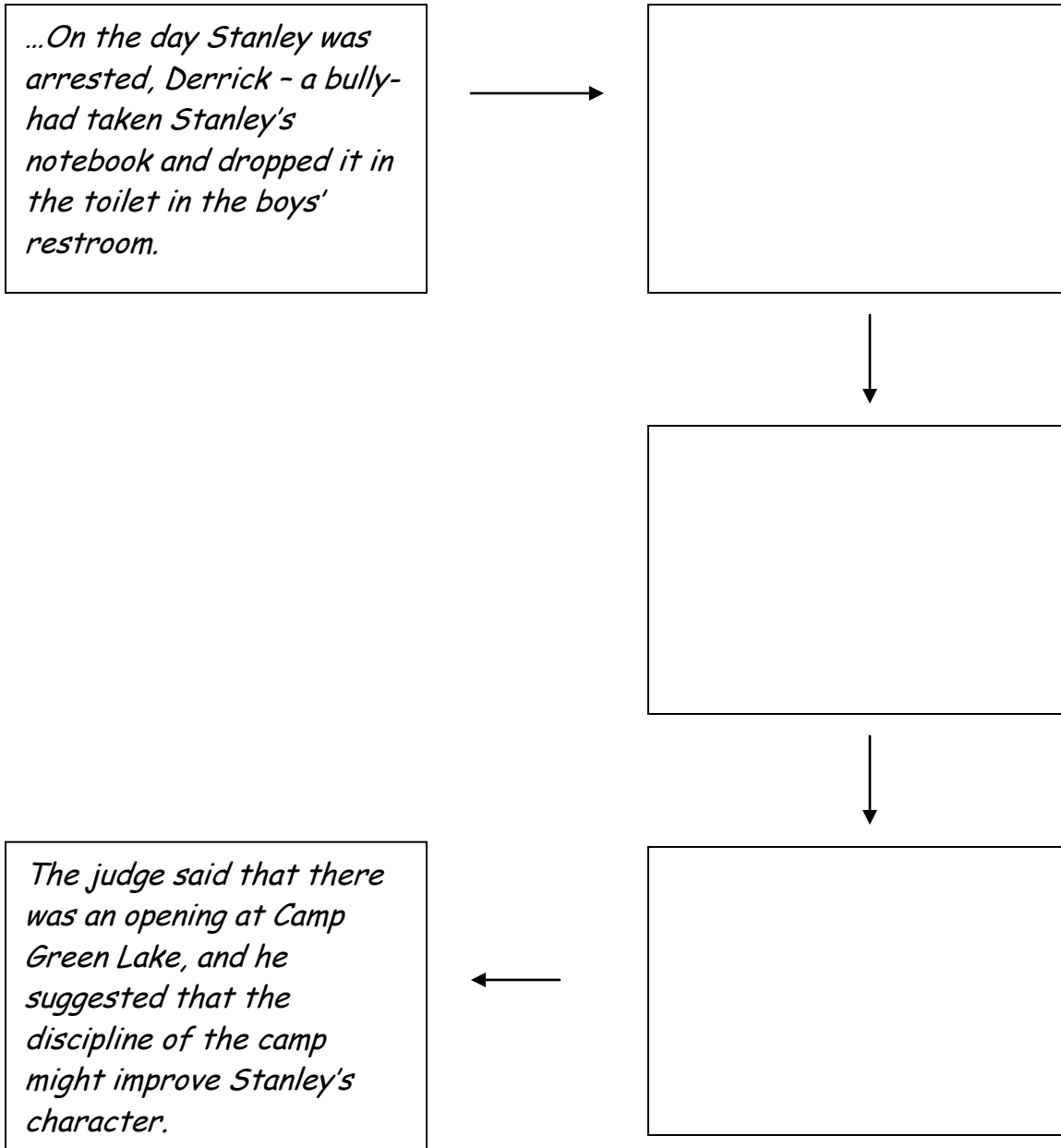
2. At this point, which character is most likable?      Mr. Sir      Mr. Pendanski  
Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which of the rules listed in the chart do you feel would be the most difficult for you to follow? \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain why. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# HOLES

## Chapters 6

In this chapter, we learn what Stanley did to get in trouble and end up at Camp Green Lake. The actions that led up to Stanley's punishment follow a cause/effect organizational pattern. Use pages 23 and 24 to complete the following chart to see how cause/effect relationships work.





# HOLES

## Chapter 7 Plot & Subplot

The **plot** in a story is what happens in it. The plot is the main storyline. **Subplots** are secondary storylines that are separate from the main plot but happen within the same story. They can often interact with the main plot and can support the main story. The story of Stanley's great-great-grandfather is one of the subplots in this novel.

**Create a comic strip for the subplot** in this chapter. Use this sheet to help you plan it. Draw pictures of the main events in the subplot involving Elya Yelnats, and use captions to help describe the action. Think of scenes and actions that occur, the characters that are present, and the landscape and props. Make sure you pay attention to Louis Sachar's imagery as you draw each scene. You may not need all of the boxes on this page. If you need more, use the back of this sheet.




## Holes Test: Chapters 1-10

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is telling the story of Holes?
  - a. Stanley
  - b. the Warden
  - c. X-Ray
  - d. an unseen narrator
  
2. Which of following best describes Stanley in this part of the novel?
  - a. timid and hopeful
  - b. aggressive and mean
  - c. trustworthy and smug
  - d. sad and unlucky
  
3. Which of these events happened first?
  - a. Stanley is on trial for stealing a pair of sneakers.
  - b. Stanley is given the nickname Caveman.
  - c. Stanley misses the bus after his notebook is put into a school toilet by a bully.
  - d. Stanley is on a bus riding to Camp Green Lake.
  
4. The conflict of Stanley's story begins when -
  - a. Stanley's dad begins to find a way to recycle old sneakers.
  - b. Stanley is accused of stealing a pair of sneakers.
  - c. Stanley is riding on the bus to Camp Green Lake.
  - d. Stanley's dad sings him a song about a wolf howling at the moon.
  
5. The use of the third person omniscient point of view allows the author to -
  - a. share more than one character's inner thoughts and feelings.
  - b. concentrate on creating unusual characters.
  - c. describe the story's setting in vivid detail.
  - d. focus in on only what the main character is thinking and feeling.
  
6. Which of the following is the **main** conflict in the book so far?
  - a. Stanley vs. his own sadness
  - b. Stanley vs. X-Ray
  - c. Stanley vs. his family
  - d. Stanley vs. the legal system

A euphemism is substituting a mild term for a harsher or distasteful one; "passed away" is a common euphemistic term for "died".

7. Which of the following sentences contains a euphemism?
- Armpit was snoring two cots away.
  - A sign on front said, YOU ARE ENTERING CAMP GREEN LAKE JUVENILE CORRECTION FACITLITY.
  - He said he couldn't imagine what kind of horrible person would steal from homeless children.
  - They were crammed in a tiny apartment that smelled of burning rubber and foot odor.
8. Stanley's father is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a pig farmer
  - a teacher
  - an inventor
  - a singer
9. Stanley is given \_\_\_\_\_ sets of clothes when he enters Camp Green Lake.
- one
  - two
  - three
  - four
10. Why is there not a need for a fence at Camp Green Lake?
- Dogs guard the borders of the camp.
  - Armed guards surround the camp's borders.
  - Camp Green Lake is the only source of water for one hundred miles.
  - Camp Green Lake is monitored by satellite.
11. Stanley was assigned to tent \_\_\_\_\_.
- A
  - C
  - D
  - F
12. Mr. Pendanski is Stanley's \_\_\_\_\_.
- roommate
  - warden
  - guard
  - counselor

13. Mr. Pendanski's nickname is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. Mom
  - b. Armpit
  - c. Blob
  - d. Zip
14. Stanley is at Camp Green Lake because he is accused of \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. stealing a pig
  - b. stealing a pair of sneakers
  - c. hitting another student at school
  - d. lying to the police

*The cot smelled like sour milk.*

15. What type of figurative language is found in the sentence?
- a. hyperbole
  - b. idiom
  - c. metaphor
  - d. simile

*"Myra's head is as empty as a flowerpot."*

*"But she's beautiful."*

*"So is a flowerpot. Can she push a plow? Can she milk a goat? No, she is too delicate. Can she have an intelligent conversation? No, she is silly and foolish. Will she take care of you when you are sick? No, she is spoiled and will only want you to take care of her. . ."*

*Madame Zeroni ...told Elya that he should go to America..."That's where your future lies. Not with Myra Menke."*

*But Elya would hear of none of that...*

*Madame Zeroni hated to see Elya so forlorn. Against her better judgment, she agreed to help him.*

16. What is the tone of the passage?
- a. straightforward
  - b. silly
  - c. cheerful
  - d. approving
17. What type of figurative language is found in the passage?
- a. hyperbole
  - b. idiom
  - c. metaphor
  - d. simile

18. What is being compared with this figurative language?
- Elya to a goat
  - Myra to a goat
  - Elya to a flowerpot
  - Myra to a flowerpot
19. Based on the passage, we can infer that Elya is very concerned with \_\_\_\_\_.
- intelligence
  - beauty
  - friendship
  - farming
20. Based on context clues, we can tell that *forlorn* means \_\_\_\_\_.
- sad and full of hopelessness
  - hopeful and excited
  - serious and stern
  - angry and spiteful
21. What does Elya promise Madame Zeroni he would do if she'd help the runt pig grow larger?
- Take her to America to see her son.
  - Carry her up the Mountain to drink from the spring.
  - Allow her to move in with him and Myra when they marry.
  - Repair her house for her.
22. Who eats sunflower seeds?
- Stanley
  - the warden
  - Mr. Pendanski
  - Mr. Sir
23. Why does this person eat sunflower seeds?
- To help with trying to quit smoking.
  - To help stay hydrated in the desert heat.
  - It is the only snack food available.
  - To help stop headaches.
24. What does Stanley do when he finishes digging his first hole?
- stands in it
  - spits in it
  - faints
  - falls in it

25. Stanley is given \_\_\_\_\_ as his nickname.
- a. Armpit
  - b. Sir
  - c. Caveman
  - d. Digger
26. What does Stanley find while digging on the second day?
- a. a diamond
  - b. gold
  - c. a fish fossil
  - d. bones

*The sun peeked over the horizon, and he could actually see the tiny lines where every one of the fish's bones had been.*

27. What type of figurative language is used in this sentence?
- a. idiom
  - b. metaphor
  - c. personification
  - d. simile

**Holes  
Answer Key Test 1**

<b>1</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>C</b>



# HOLES

## Chapter 11 Pig Latin (igpa atinla)

"It's pig Latin for Rex. That's all..." (page 52)

Here's how pig Latin works.

Step 1: Take the first letter of the word, and place it at the end of the word.

Step 2: Add an a to the end.

Example: for the word pig.

Step one - igp

Step two- igpa (pronounced *ig pay*)

Example: For the word rex

Step one - exr

Step two - extra (pronounced Xray)

\*Note, words that begin with an i, can keep the i at the beginning and only add an a. Example: if - ifa

You try it! Choose three words, and turn them in to pig Latin.

Original word \_\_\_\_\_ Pig Latin \_\_\_\_\_

Original word \_\_\_\_\_ Pig Latin \_\_\_\_\_

Original word \_\_\_\_\_ Pig Latin \_\_\_\_\_

If you practice, you should be able to become a fluent pig Latin speaker! See if you can read the following paragraph.

Alkingta ina igpa atinla anca eba unfa! Ita ustja akesta omesa imeta! Ifa uoya racticepa, ouya illwa ecomeba a ropa! Oodga uckla!

Translation \_\_\_\_\_

**HOLES**  
Chapter 13

**Predict**

What do you think the tube may be?

Do you think X-Ray will get the day off?

**Symbolism**

What does the order in which the boys stand in line symbolize?

- a. their freedom
- b. their rank or superiority
- c. how mean each boy is
- d. how smart each boy is

Why did Stanley get moved up one place in line?

---

What does this mean for Stanley?

---

Who is at the back of the line? \_\_\_\_\_

What does this character's nickname reveal about what other people think about him?

---

# HOLES

## Chapters 14 & 15

### Indirect Characterization

Sometimes, the author indirectly reveals these characters' personalities through what they say, how they look, their behavior, and what other characters say about them and how they act around them. This is called indirect characterization.

Complete the following chart to examine Mr. Sir and the Warden.

<b>Mr. Sir</b> (page 12- first description)	
His words tell you that he is	
His looks tell you that he is	
Other characters tell you that he is	
His behavior tells you that he is	
<b>The Warden</b>	
Her words tell you that she is	
Her looks tell you that she is	
Other characters tell you that she is	
Her behavior tells you that she is	

# HOLES

## Chapter 16

### Create a Nursery Rhyme

#### Comprehension

What is Stanley's dad doing that makes the apartment smell bad?

Zero says he has never heard of the nursery rhyme "The Little Old Lady Who Lived in a Shoe".

*There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.  
She had so many children she didn't know what to do.  
She gave them some broth without any bread.  
She whipped them all soundly and put them to bed.*

What is the rhyme scheme of this nursery rhyme?

#### Create your own nursery rhyme.

Follow the same rhyme scheme as this original one. Begin your rhyme with the following line:

There was an old woman who lived in a \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

## Readers' Theater

Students build fluency through reading out loud, and at the middle school level, what better way to allow this than with readers' theater! Chapter seventeen of *Holes* is perfect for this activity!

If you want to get your students' attention, read the beginning of this chapter with a monotone voice until they stop you and ask you why you are doing this. Explain that when reading aloud, you should always read with expression. Next, reread the section changing your voice to match each character.

Not only will readers' theater be a fun way to incorporate oral reading, it will also promote cooperation and team work. Each group will create speaking parts by breaking down this chapter into dialogue. Narrators will need to be added.

Provide your students with the directions page to help them know what to do.

Once your students understand what they will be doing, they will be eager to begin. Use the following steps to instruct them.

- In groups of five or six have students prepare their script. It is a good idea to have each student write the script on his/her own notebook paper unless you are allowing them to type it so that multiple copies can be printed.
- Once the script is complete, each member of the group will need to read over it silently.
- Students should work together to decide who will read each part. If there are more parts than students in the group, have one person read both of the narrators' parts.
- Have groups practice reading the script several times. With readers' theater there is no need to act out. The focus should be on the way that they read it. It should be read with lots of expression, and tell them that character "voices" are great as long as they match the character well.
- Students can use highlighters to highlight their individual parts.
- After practicing it several times, groups can "perform" their read aloud for the other groups.

Most students greatly enjoy readers' theater. The key is making sure they feel comfortable with the part that they will be reading. Have fun!

## Create Readers' Theater Directions

You will create a readers' theater script for chapter \_\_\_\_\_.

Your script should have \_\_\_\_\_ parts including two narrators.

1. Silently, each member of the group must read the chapter taking notice and counting how many characters have dialogue.
2. After the silent read, make sure that everyone in the group came up with the same number of "speaking parts".
3. You will add two narrators to your script to read everything that is not dialogue of a character.
4. Whenever possible, turn indirect speech into direct speech. The following is indirect speech: *Sheka asked her mom if she could go, but her mom said no.* To turn this into direct speech, you would write it this way:  
Sheka: Can I go?  
Mom: No.
5. You may eliminate words that are not needed, such as *she said, however,* do not eliminate other parts unless they are totally unnecessary. You will not need quotation marks around what a character says since you are turning this into a skit.
6. Write the character's name on the left-hand side of the page. Underline the character's name. Put a colon (:) after the character's name, and then write what that character will say.
7. Call the narrators *Narrator 1* and *Narrator 2*.
8. Go back and forth between narrator 1 and 2 giving each equal amounts of narration.
9. Underline or use all CAPS for words that need to be stressed.
10. Use parenthesis to provide directions for how something should be said.

Look at the example on the following page. Pay close attention to how lines are divided between the narrators, how quotation marks are no longer needed, and how directions are given in parenthesis for how something should be said or to tell who it should be said to.

"Let's go to Seashell Island!" Meg begged her mother. Meg had been saving her money for the trip for some time, and wanted more than anything to take the ferry boat to the island well known for its beautiful hidden shells and sand dollars.

"I think today is a perfect day to go," her mother said.

"I'm going too!" shouted Dayne from upstairs. Dayne and Meg threw on their baiting suits, and grabbed their sand buckets. The trip to the island would take about thirty minutes.

"Welcome aboard," announced the captain of the boat. "The waves are a little rough today, so I'm going to ask that all passengers wear a life jacket for precautionary reasons." Meg and Dayne thought nothing of danger as they strapped on the orange jackets, but their mother immediately began to worry.

"Excuse me, sir" she said talking to the captain. "Is it perhaps too rough to make the trip today?"

**Meg**: (begging voice) Let's go to Seashell Island!

**Narrator 1**: Meg had been saving her money for the trip for some time and wanted more than anything to take the ferry boat to the island well known for its beautiful hidden shells and sand dollars.

**Mother**: I think today is a perfect day to go.

**Dayne**: (shouting) I'm going too!

**Narrator 2**: Dayne and Meg threw on their baiting suits, and grabbed their sand buckets. The trip to the island would take about thirty minutes.

**Captain**: Welcome aboard. The waves are a little rough today, so I'm going to ask that all passengers wear a life jacket for precautionary reasons.

**Narrator 1**: Meg and Dayne thought nothing of danger as they strapped on the orange jackets, but their mother immediately began to worry.

**Mother**: (to the captain) Excuse me, sir. Is it perhaps too rough to make the trip today?

# HOLES

## Chapter 18

### Point of View

The point of view of a story makes all the difference in the world. If a character is telling the story, the first person point of view is used. If none of the characters are telling the story, and an unseen narrator is telling it, the third person point of view is being used. If the narrator focuses on only one character, the limited third person point of view is used. If the narrator allows the reader to know thoughts and feelings of one character, then another's, then another's, the third person omniscient point of view is used.

Answer only one easy question to decide if this story is told in the first person point of view. If the answer is yes, it is first person!

- Is one of the characters telling this story? \_\_\_\_\_

*Holes* is told from a third-person omniscient point of view because the narrator is able to move back and forth between what's going on at Camp Green Lake and what went on one hundred and ten years ago when Green Lake was still a lake. However, within specific chapters, the omniscient narrator gives us a limited point of view. Thus, this would be called the third person omniscient limited point of view.

*He stayed in the tent to write the letter so Squid and the other boys wouldn't make fun of him for writing to his mother...*

*He stopped writing as Zero walked into the tent, then returned to his letter. **He didn't care what Zero thought.** Zero was nobody... (page 81)*

The bolded words tell us how Stanley feels about Zero in this passage.

Do we know what Zero is thinking or feeling? \_\_\_\_\_

As the reader, are we aware of what the other campers are doing or where Zero is before he joins Stanley? \_\_\_\_\_

**Point of view in this passage is** \_\_\_\_\_

- first person
- 3<sup>rd</sup> person limited
- 3rd person omniscient

**The overall point of view of the novel is** \_\_\_\_\_.



# HOLES

## Chapter 19

### Dialogue & Writing Opportunity

#### Punctuating Dialogue

When punctuating dialogue, there are a few rules to remember.

- Place quotation marks around what a character is speaking.
- Set the quote off from the rest of the sentence with a comma, question mark, or exclamation mark.
- Capitalize the first word of what is being said.
- Start a new paragraph each time the speaker is switched.

Reread the following dialogue.

*I got allergies, okay? Squid said. Okay, said Stanley. You open your mouth again, and I'll break your jaw.*

In the novel, it is not written this way! Instead, it is written in the following way: (page 83)

*"I got allergies, okay?" Squid said.*

*"Okay," said Stanley.*

*"You open your mouth again, and I'll break your jaw."*

Notice the quotation marks are around each thing that is said out loud. Also, notice how each time the speaker is changed, a new paragraph is started!

In addition, note the punctuation that sets off each quote, either a question mark or a comma.

One thing that can add to dialogue is the tag that comes with it. A dialogue tag is the word like "said" that tells the reader who is talking. When writing, try to add variety to your dialogue by using different tags.

#### A Few Tags:

screamed called stuttered whispered whined yelled proclaimed questioned

Look in chapter nineteen at the dialogue. What are some of the different tags that the author uses? List three different ones from chapter nineteen.

Now, let's try changing the tags from "said" and "asked" to other tags. Fill in the following blanks with different tags. Add punctuation as well to each line of dialogue.

"I got allergies, okay?" Squid \_\_\_\_\_.

"Okay," \_\_\_\_\_ Stanley.

"You open your mouth again, and I'll break your jaw," he \_\_\_\_\_.

# HOLES

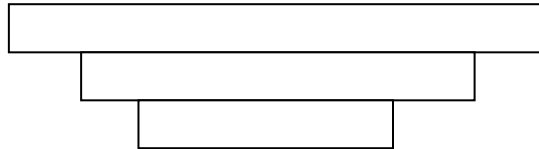
## Chapter 20

### Read All About It!

In this chapter, Mr. Sir takes Stanley to the Warden. Create a news report telling what happened at the warden's cabin.

Read the following information on writing a news report before you start.

- A news report is based on facts. Do not include your opinions.
- The first paragraph contains the most important information: **Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?**
- It is arranged in an "inverted pyramid" style:



This means that facts are arranged from most important to least important. It allows you to see a lot of information quickly in the first couple of paragraphs. The least important facts are near the end.

Answer these questions in the lead of your news report:

1. Who is it about?
2. What happened?
3. When did it happen?
4. Where did it happen?
5. Why did it happen?
6. How did it happen?

Remember, not everyone knows what the reader knows. Write only what would appear in a newspaper. You cannot say that it is all Zigzag's fault because that is your opinion. You can, however, make up a statement that one of the characters like Zigzag, Magnet, or Mr. Sir would say for the article.

Don't forget to create a headline. Your headline should grab the readers' attention, so put some thought into it! Write three headlines on the lines below. Then, choose your favorite and write your news article on a separate sheet of paper.

Headlines:

---

---

---

## Holes

### Test Chapters 11-20

1. What did Stanley find first as he was digging?
  - a. a gold coin
  - b. a flat rock with a fossilized fish inside
  - c. a gold tube with the initials KB on it
  - d. a small locked box

*He looked at the barren land all around him. True, everyone referred to this area as "the lake," but it was still hard to believe that this dry wasteland was once full of water.*

2. Which words in this passage help to explain the meaning of the underlined word barren?
  - a. ...to this area as "the lake"
  - b. ...it was still hard to believe
  - c. ...that this dry wasteland
  - d. ...once full of water
3. Which camper is always at the front of the line?
  - a. X-Ray
  - b. Zero
  - c. Stanley
  - d. Armpit
4. Why is X-Ray named X-Ray?
  - a. because he has excellent vision
  - b. because it is Pig Latin for Rex
  - c. because he can read people's minds
  - d. because he has broken so many bones
5. Why is Stanley glad to be called Caveman?
  - a. It means that the guys have accepted him as a member of the group.
  - b. He has always wanted to live in a cave.
  - c. It makes him more important than all of the others.
  - d. He was once called Caveman by his friends back home.

*"You have to think about what you want to do, then do it. Even you, Zero. You're not completely worthless."*

6. Using this passage to draw conclusions, what is Mr. Pendanski's view of Zero?
  - a. Mr. Pendanski is proud of Zero.
  - b. Mr. Pendanski does not like Zero.
  - c. Mr. Pendanski is afraid of Zero.
  - d. Mr. Pendanski feels sorry for Zero.

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

7. This means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. looking back, all holes seem easy
  - b. the sixth hole is the absolute hardest
  - c. digging holes never gets any easier
  - d. no hole is as hard to dig as the first
  
8. The warden is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Mr. Sir's brother
  - b. a woman
  - c. a police officer
  - d. a teenager
  
9. Who wanted Stanley to give him anything else he found while digging?
  - a. Armpit
  - b. Mom
  - c. X-Ray
  - d. Zero
  
10. What is the second item that Stanley finds while digging a hole?
  - a. a gold tube
  - b. a silver coin
  - c. a fossil
  - d. a heart shaped necklace
  
11. Who is the leader of the Group D boys?
  - a. Armpit
  - b. Magnet
  - c. X-Ray
  - d. Zig-Zag
  
12. How does Stanley know that the other boys have accepted him?
  - a. They taught him to spit into hole after he was finishing digging.
  - b. They let him sit in their circle with Mr. Pendanski.
  - c. They gave him a nickname.
  - d. He is now the leader of their group.
  
13. Mr. Pendanski wants the boys in Group D to think about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. what they want to do to improve the camp conditions
  - b. something they can do to make the Warden nicer
  - c. helping Stanley dig holes faster
  - d. what they want to do with their lives

14. This novel is told in the \_\_\_\_\_ point of view.
- a. first person
  - b. second person
  - c. third person limited
  - d. third person limited omniscient

*. . . He usually had such an angry expression on his face. Now he had such a huge smile it almost seemed too big for his face, like the smile on a jack-o'-lantern.*

15. This passage refers to the first time that \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. Stanley saw Zero smile
  - b. Stanley heard X-Ray laugh
  - c. Stanley told Mr. Pendanski what he wanted to do when he left Camp Green Lake
  - d. Stanley beat someone digging a hole
16. What type of figurative language is included in the passage?
- a. hyperbole
  - b. idiom
  - c. simile
  - d. metaphor
17. Which of the following definitions matches the meaning of the underlined word in the passage?
- a. a phrase
  - b. a mathematical symbol
  - c. a way of speaking or of singing
  - d. a look
18. Why was Stanley able to move up in the water line?
- a. He helped Zero move some dirt.
  - b. He found something while digging and gave it to X-Ray.
  - c. He threatened to beat up Magnet.
  - d. He talks hateful to the Warden.
19. Which of the following traits are true of the Warden?
- a. She has red hair.
  - b. She is tall.
  - c. She has freckles on her arms and face.
  - d. all of the above
20. Why didn't X-Ray want to talk to Stanley about the gold tube at breakfast?
- a. He was afraid the Warden may have been listening.
  - b. He was afraid that Stanley would take it back.
  - c. He lost it.
  - d. He had already told Mr. Sir about it.

**Holes**  
**Answer Key Test 2**

<b>1</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>A</b>

# HOLES

## Chapters 21 & 22

### Context Clues

#### Context Clues

You can really build your vocabulary by reading books like *Holes*! Often, you can use context clues within a sentence to figure out a word you do not know. Sometimes, you have to use prior knowledge or something that's happened earlier in the story to help you figure out a word.

Read each of the following sentences from chapters twenty-one and twenty-two. Use context clues to figure out the best meaning of the bolded and underlined words.

1. Walking across the desolate wasteland, Stanley thought about his great-grandfather- not the pig stealer but the pig stealer's son... (Page 92)

- a. hot
- b. deserted
- c. isolated
- d. both b and c

2. When he was asked how he had lived so long, he said he "found refuge on God's thumb."

- a. water
- b. food
- c. peace
- d. protection

3. "Do You know the alphabet?" Stanley asked.

For a second, he thought he saw a flash of defiance in Zero's eyes, but then it passed. "I think I know some of it," Zero said...(page 96)

- a. non-cooperation
- b. determination
- c. excitement
- d. a smile

4. Later that night, as he lay on his cot, Stanley reconsidered the deal he had made with Zero. Getting a break every day would be a relief, but he knew X-Ray wouldn't like it. (page 99)

- a. thought about again
- b. forgot
- c. tried to create
- d. remembered

5. He closed his eyes, and images from the Warden's cabin floated inside his head: her red fingernails, Mr. Sir writing on the floor, her flowered makeup kit.

- a. laying
- b. twisting and turning
- c. sleeping
- d. coughing and snoring

# HOLES

## Chapter 23 &24

### Subplot Questions & Characterization

#### Subplot Comprehension

1. Who is Miss Katherine?

2. Who is Trout?

1. **DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.

2. **INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

**Complete the following charts about each character, and then decide if the author used direct characterization or if you concluded something about a character through indirect characterization.**

Passage	Type of characterization
<i>She was a wonderful teacher, full of knowledge and full of life. (page 102)</i>	
<i>She was very pretty. (page 102)</i>	
<i>A lot of men in town were not educated. That didn't bother Miss Katherine. She knew they'd spent most of their lives working on farms and ranches... (page 103)</i>	

Find Passages about Trout. Use page 103 to help you.	Type of characterization



# HOLES

## Chapter 25

### Irony & Discussion

#### Irony

Verbal irony involves a contrast between what is said or written and what is meant.

**Example:** if you call a really tall person, "Shorty"

Situational irony occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen. Or, sometimes situational irony comes from the oddness or unfairness of a situation.

**Example:** A man who has been afraid to fly in a plane all of his life finally gets the courage to do it, and then the plane crashes.

**Example:** The man who is the "voice" for Bugs Bunny is allergic to carrots.

Dramatic irony occurs when the audience or the reader knows something a character does not know.

**Example:** The reader knows who the criminal is, but the characters do not know.

**Louis Sanchar uses the different types of irony throughout this novel.**

*Doc Hawthorn was almost completely bald, and in the morning his head often smelled like onions.*

Why is it ironic that Doc Hawthorn often smelled like onions? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of irony is this? a. verbal                      b. situational                      c. dramatic

#### Discussion

Why does Hattie Parker say to Katherine and Sam "God will punish you!"?

What does this tell us about the historical context of the subplot?

## **HOLES**

### Chapter 26

#### Silent Conversation

Have students reread the last paragraph of chapter twenty-six starting with "Three days after..."

Divide the students into pairs and give each pair a sheet of paper. Give students ten minutes to conduct a silent, written conversation. They can only "talk" on paper. No whispering either! 😊

In this conversation, students can "talk" about Sam's death and Kissin' Kate's reaction to it. They may make predictions about what will happen next, ask questions to one another like, "What would you do if..." or simply discuss the event.

Enforce the silence.

When the ten minutes are up, you may hold a class discussion about the action.

# HOLES

## Chapter 27

### What's in a Name?

Louis Sachar makes names significant in this book. Let's take a look at some of these characters and how their names match their personalities.

Character's Name	Why that name fits the character
Mr. Sir	
X-Ray	
Zero	
Trout	

### Discussion

How does the name Miss Katherine seem compared to the name Kissin' Kate Barlow? What does her new name do for this character?

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Think about the name of the book. There are other "holes" in this book besides digging holes at the camp. Symbolically, what "holes" did Stanley have in his life before arriving at Camp Green Lake?

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What are some of the "holes" in the book - things about which the reader is left to wonder? List some of the questions that you have about the plot and subplot.

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# HOLES

## Chapter 28

### Epitaph for Kate Barlow

**An epitaph is a short, rhymed poem that would be written on a tombstone.**

#### Choices

- Write the epitaph for Kate Barlow from her point of view. Have her speak from the great beyond. If you do this, think about her outlook on life or her advice to those still living.
- Write the epitaph as a loved one who misses Kate. Think about what she meant to surviving friends and family, and put those thoughts into a poem.

#### Write

- Use an *aabb* rhyme scheme. It should not be longer than four lines because it has to be short enough to fit on a tombstone. It can be as short as two lines. The length is not as important as what is written.

**Write a draft on the lines below. Try a couple of them, and choose the best one.**

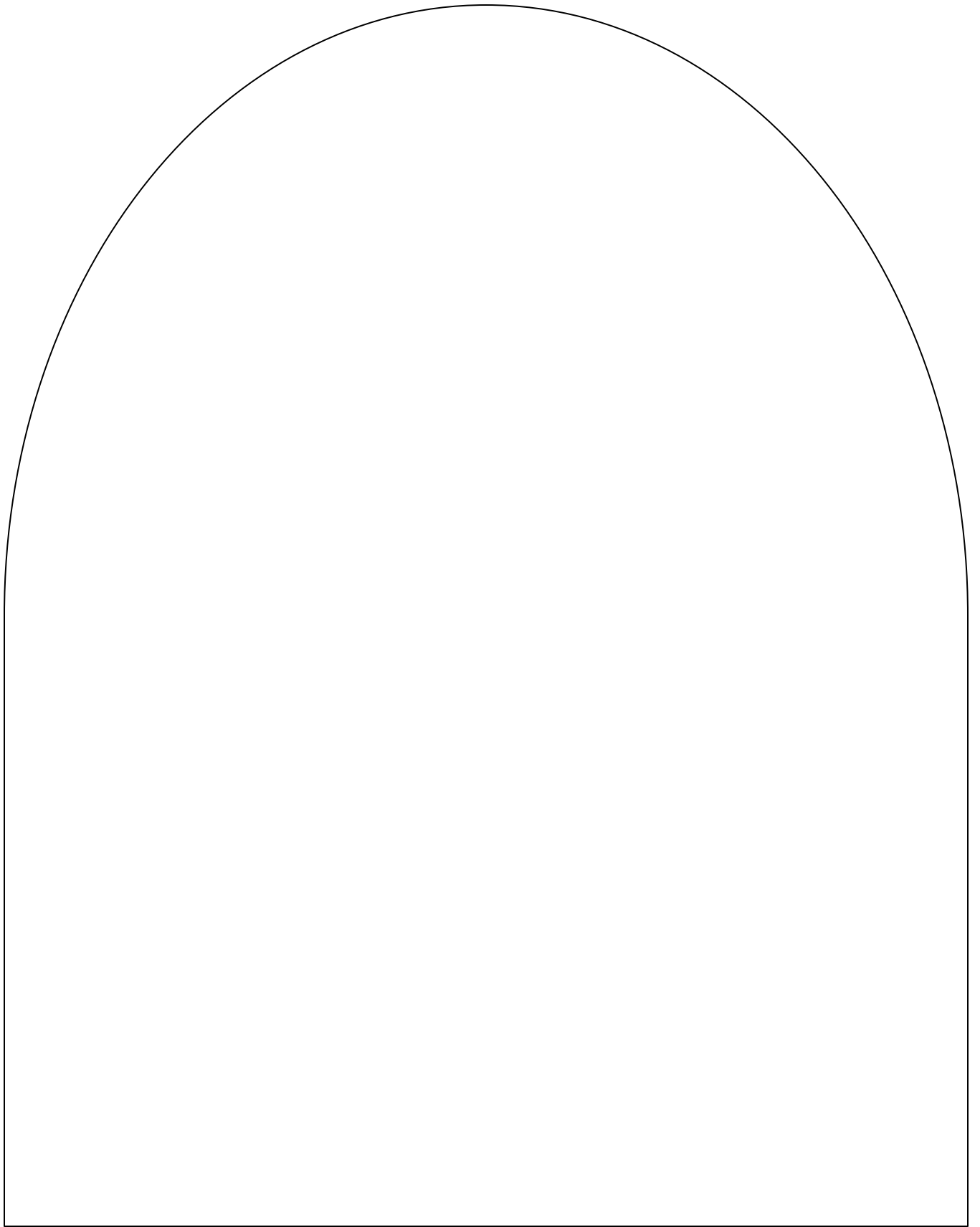
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## Holes

### Test Chapters 21-28

1. Stanley tries to teach Zero to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. count
  - b. read
  - c. speak clearly
  - d. watch Sesame Street
  
2. Stanley finally realizes that the gold tube he found is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the top of a pen
  - b. the top of a lipstick container
  - c. the casing of a bullet
  - d. a pill case

*It was full of clear cool water, and it sparkled like a giant emerald in the sun. It was especially beautiful in the spring, when the peach trees, which lined the shore, bloomed with pink and rose-colored blossoms.*

3. This passage contains \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. foreshadowing and a simile
  - b. foreshadowing and a metaphor
  - c. imagery and a simile
  - d. imagery and a metaphor
  
4. Mary Lou is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Doc Hawthorne's wife
  - b. Sam's donkey
  - c. Miss Katherine's cat
  - d. Trout Walker's boat
  
5. The townspeople of Green Lake would get \_\_\_\_\_ from Sam when they were sick.
  - a. onion concoctions
  - b. medicine
  - c. advice
  - d. Doc Hawthorne's address
  
6. Sam could not attend school because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. of his age
  - b. of his violent nature
  - c. of where he lived
  - d. of his race

7. What was the first thing that Sam repaired on the school building?
- a. the windows
  - b. the doors
  - c. the roof
  - d. the desks
8. In exchange for working on the school building, Sam was given \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. jars of spiced peaches
  - b. onion seeds
  - c. a boat
  - d. jars of strawberry preserves
9. Who sees Sam and Miss Katherine kiss?
- a. Mary Lou
  - b. Doc Hawthorn
  - c. Hattie Parker
  - d. Trout Walker
10. Which of the following words best describes Trout Walker?
- a. kind
  - b. spiteful
  - c. dedicated
  - d. law-abiding
11. Which of the following best describes the relationship between Sam and Katherine?
- a. one-sided and unsafe
  - b. loving and private
  - c. turbulent and resentful
  - d. unsupportive and dangerous

*He had to drink **sparingly** because he didn't know who would be driving the water truck the next time it came.*

12. Use context clues to define the bolded word in the passage.
- a. carefully
  - b. wasteful
  - c. reckless
  - d. practicing
13. This passage refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. the time before the Warden scratched Mr. Sir
  - b. the time after the Warden scratched Mr. Sir
14. What type of figurative language is used in the passage?
- a. idiom
  - b. simile
  - c. metaphor
  - d. none of these
15. How did Kate die?
- a. Trout shot her.
  - b. Linda hit her with a shovel.
  - c. A lizard bit her.
  - d. She starved to death.

**Holes**  
**Answer Key Test Chapters 21-28**

1	b
2	b
3	c
4	b
5	a
6	d
7	a
8	a
9	c
10	b
11	b
12	a
13	b
14	d
15	c



# **Part Two**

## **The Last Hole**

# HOLES

## Chapter 29

### Vivid Descriptions

Louis Sachar has a way of creating original and very descriptive scenes. Read the following passage from the book.

*Beads of moisture ran down the handle of his shovel. It was almost as if the temperature had gotten so hot that the air itself was sweating.*

Try creating your own descriptive sentence about the temperature. Finish the following sentence with an original simile, metaphor, personification, or other vivid description.

It was almost as if the temperature

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Draw a picture of what you think God's thumb looks like. Use the description on page 128 to help you.



## **HOLES**

### Chapter 30

#### Tone & Readers Theater

**Tone** - the writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details

*"Hey, Caveman," said Zigzag. "You should get a whip. Then if your slave doesn't dig fast enough, you can crack it across his back."* (page 132)

Which word best describes the tone of Zigzag's attitude in this passage?

- a. sorrowful                      b. anxious                      c. fearful                      d. sarcastic

### **Readers' Theater**

Create a Readers' Theater for part of this chapter. Read pages 130-top of 132 on your own. With a partner or in groups, begin writing the script for readers' theater on page 132. End half way down page 133. After writing the script, practice reading it. Make sure you read the lines using the correct tone. The line you are to begin with is provided, and the line you are to stop with is provided. Use this sheet or notebook paper to write your script.

**(First line) Narrator:** Zero took his turn before the lunch break. Stanley climbed out of his hole, and Zero climbed down into it.

**(last line) Narrator:** Stanley hesitated, then moved to the front of the line.  
**Continue reading on page 135.**

**HOLES**

Chapter 31

Discussion

**Comprehension**

What is Zero's real name? \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion**

Where have you heard his last name before? What may be the link?

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Describe what you think God's Thumb may be like.

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**Predict**

What do you think Zero is doing? What do you think will happen to him?

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# HOLES

## Chapter 32

### Wanted Poster

Make a "wanted" poster for Zero. Draw a picture of him in the middle. Use the descriptions in the book to help you with this.

# Wanted



**Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Last seen:* \_\_\_\_\_

# HOLES

## Chapter 33 Situational Irony

Situational irony occurs when what happens is very different from what is expected to happen. Or, sometimes situational irony comes from the oddness or unfairness of a situation

**Example:** A man who has been afraid to fly in a plane all of his life finally gets the courage to do it, and then the plane crashes.

**Example:** The man who is the "voice" for Bugs Bunny is allergic to carrots.

Go back to page 154. Begin reading the paragraph that begins..

*He laughed to himself*

Stop reading with the words... *die of thirst.*

First of all, it is ironic that there is a boat in the middle of this barren desert. What else is ironic in this passage? Explain why this is situational irony.

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# HOLES

## Chapter 35

### Sploosh!

A lesson plan ~ Creative Idea

Reread the description of sploosh on page 157.

**Teacher Notes:** Prepare some peach punch and serve it to your students as Sploosh! After or while drinking the "sploosh" have your students list adjectives to describe it. Then, have them write an advertisement for the refreshing drink. You can use the recipe below to make the punch. Pass out the handout on propaganda techniques. After explaining each technique, you can require the students to use at least one of them in their ad. Students can create magazine ads or commercials which they act out in front of the class. This could also be a group project.

☺ Have fun!

#### Recipe for Peach Punch (Sploosh!)

4 (3 oz.) pkgs. peach flavored gelatin

4 c. boiling water

4 c. sugar

4 c. water

2 c. lemon juice

2 (46 oz.) cans pineapple juice

2 qts. ginger ale

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Combine sugar and 4 cups water; bring to a boil and let boil until sugar is dissolved. Add to gelatin mixture and set aside to cool. When mixture has cooled, add lemon juice and pineapple juice. Mix well. Pour into plastic container with tight fitting lids.

Freeze. When ready to serve, place containers under hot water for a few minutes. Place frozen punch in punch bowl and add ginger ale. Stir to mix. Mixture should be slushy. Makes: 30 to 40 servings

# HOLES

## Peach Sploosh

While drinking your sploosh, list adjectives in the three categories. You can also create similes and/or metaphors to describe how your sploosh tastes, smells, and looks.

Looks like	Smells like	Tastes like

Write one or two sentences describing your sploosh. Use words and phrases from the chart above to help you.



## HOLES

### Propaganda Techniques & Advertisement

Create a magazine advertisement for the Sploosh. First, read over the following propaganda techniques. You must include at least one of the following techniques in your advertisement.

**Propaganda:** An extreme form of persuasion for the purpose of getting people to do certain things or think a certain way. Propaganda appeals to emotions rather than to intellect, and many times, only one side of a situation is presented.

Complete the chart by filling in the example column by thinking about commercials or ads that you have seen.

Propaganda Technique	Definition	Example
Bandwagon	An appeal for others to "join the crowd" in order to be on the "winning side"	
Testimonial	A famous person endorses a product, person, or idea	
Card Stacking	Presenting only the positive information and leaving out anything that may be negative	
Glittering Generalities	Emotionally appealing words are used to describe a product or idea, but no evidence is given to support it	
Name Calling	The use of words that have a negative connotation	
Plain Folks	The use of common, ordinary people are used to promote a product.	
Emotional Appeal	The use of fear, humor, something sad, etc. to get your attention and make you remember a product	

Your magazine advertisement must include the following:

- Cover one page. You may use a piece of regular copy paper or construction paper. The page does not have to be white. You can use color.
- Include a picture of the Sploosh. You can draw this picture, create it on the computer, or cut out something from a magazine.
- You must include at least one propaganda techniques from the chart.
- Your ad should be neat, colorful, and convincing. It should make someone want to buy this drink!
- You may use clip art, use cutouts from magazines, or draw pictures. You can include pictures of people or any other illustration that would enhance the ad.

## HOLES

### Chapter 36

#### Discussion

*"I should warn you," Stanley said. "I'm not exactly the luckiest guy in the world." Zero wasn't worried. "When you spend your whole life living in a hole," he said, "the only way you can go is up."*

1. What does Zero mean by this statement?

*The sploosh had saved Zero's life, but it was now destroying him from the inside.*

2. What kind of irony is used in this passage? verbal    situational    or    dramatic  
Explain how you know.

Find an example of irony involving Mary Lou on page 161. Write part of the passage below. Then, answer the question based on the passage.

3. What kind of irony is used in this passage? A. verbal    B. situational    C. dramatic  
Explain how you know.

*When they reached flat ground, Stanley looked up to see the sun, a fiery ball balancing on top of Big Thumb.*

4. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?

5. Predict what you think will happen when they reach *Big Thumb*.

## HOLES

### Chapters 37 & 38

#### Symbolism

**Symbolism** – The author's use of an object, person, place, or event that has both a meaning in itself and stands for something larger than itself.

**A literary symbol has literal meaning in a story but stands for something else.**

For example, in literature the color white is often symbolic of goodness and purity.

If something is symbolic, it will most likely

- *be repeated in the book*
- *be written in a memorable or vivid way*
- *be emphasized with imagery*
- *mean something else than what it is*

1. In *Holes* Big Thumb could most likely symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.

- wisdom
- hope
- a mountain top
- escape

2. The weeds, thorns, and bugs that Stanley and Zero come upon while climbing Big thumb could most likely symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.

- the long climb up the mountain
- the hardships the boys have had to overcome
- nature
- the success that lies ahead for them

3. In *Holes*, onions could most likely symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.

- evil and wrong doing
- goodness and survival
- vegetables and nutrition
- freedom and escape

What may the following things symbolize in the book?

- the order in which the boys line up for water and other things.
- peaches
- holes

# HOLES

## Chapter 39

### Discussion & Writing Opportunity

What do you think about Zero's "confession"? What could have happened?

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Reread the song "If Only" at the end of chapter thirty-nine.

Who is the speaker in the first line of the song?

- a. the wolf
- b. the woodpecker
- c. Stanley
- d. the moon

This song has a \_\_\_\_\_ tone.

- a. unhappy
- b. witty
- c. cheerful
- d. amusing

If Stanley and Zero made up their own lyrics to this song to describe their current predicament, what might the lyrics be? Create a new version of this song involving Stanley and Zero. Begin your song with the same words: *If only, if only...*

"If only, if only \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

"If only, if only."

## HOLES

### Chapters 40 & 41

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reread the following passage from page 178 (chapter 40):

*...“I think she’s going to be all right. The fever broke about an hour ago. Thanks to you.”*

*“I’m sure the good Lord and Doc Hawthorn deserve most of the credit.”*

*“The good Lord, yes,” agreed Mrs. Tennyson, “but not Dr. Hawthorne. That quack wanted to put leeches on her stomach! Leeches! My word! He said they would suck out the bad blood. Now you tell me. How would a leech know good blood from bad blood?”*

1. Who is Mrs. Tennyson thanking in this passage for helping Becca, her daughter?
  - a. Mary Lou
  - b. Sam
  - c. Hattie Parker
  - d. Mr. Pike
2. Which word best describes Mrs. Tennyson’s tone in the underlined portion of the passage?
  - a. gleeful
  - b. threatening
  - c. bewildered
  - d. worshipful
3. What does Mrs. Tennyson think helped Becca finally get rid of her fever?
  - a. candy
  - b. time
  - c. onion tonic
  - d. eggs

<p><b>Quack:</b> \kwak\ v 1: to make the characteristic cry of a duck n 2: a noise made by quacking 3: a pretender to medical skill adj 4 : of, relating to quacks, or used by quacks &lt;quack cancer cures</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

4. Which definition from the dictionary entry above matches the use of quack in the passage?
  - a. verb 1
  - b. noun 2
  - c. noun 3
  - d. adjective 4

Now, read the passage titled *Leeches Provide Medical Help*. Then, answer the questions that follow it.

### *Leeches Provide Medical Help*

The medicinal leech is a segmented worm related to the earthworm. A rear suction cup helps it move and cling to a host. The front suction cup has three sharp jaws that make a Y-shaped bite.

In ancient times, leeches were used to treat everything from headaches to ear infections to hemorrhoids. Historians think Egyptians used leech therapy 3,500 years ago. The treatments were back in vogue during the Middle Ages, and again in the 1800s.

Nowadays, leeches are routinely used to drain blood from swollen faces, limbs and digits after reconstructive surgery.

They are especially useful when reattaching small parts that contain many blood vessels, like ears, where blood clots can easily form in veins that normally drain blood from tissues. If the clots are severe, the tissues can die -- drowned in the body's own fluid -- because they are deprived of oxygen and other vital nutrients.

Scientists are also looking at using leeches to treat other ailments. Studies led by Andreas Michalsen, a researcher at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany, suggests leech therapy may lessen the pain and inflammation associated with osteoarthritis, a debilitating disease where bones can grind against one another because the cartilage has been worn down.

Leeches are so effective that the FDA last year classified them as one of the first live medical devices. Scientists have not figured out exactly how a leech works, but quite a bit is known. Leech saliva is made up of a potent cocktail of more than 30 different proteins that, among other things, helps to numb pain, reduce swelling and keep blood flowing. It can feed for 30 minutes to 6 hours or more, taking in several times its body weight.

Medical-grade leeches are sold by companies such as Leeches U.S.A. Ltd. and Biopharm Leeches.

1. What paragraph would be the best to add this detail?

In the 1980s, medicinal leech therapy got a big boost by plastic surgeons that used leeches to relieve venous (deoxygenated blood - runs in veins from the organs to the heart) congestion, especially in transplant surgery.

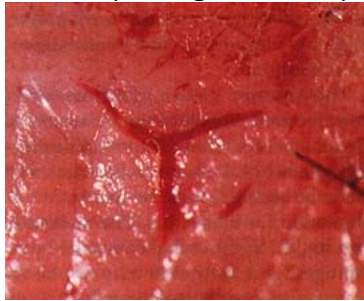
a. paragraph 1

c. paragraph 3

b. paragraph 2

d. paragraph 4

2. Based on the passage, which photo below shows a picture of a leech bite?



a.



b.



c.



d.

3. Which of the following is the main idea of this passage?

a. Egyptians found leeches very useful.

b. Scientists are looking at using leeches to treat other ailments.

c. Leeches can take in several times as much blood as its body weight.

d. Medicinal leeches are very useful.

4. Which of the following sources would provide the **best** additional information on leeches?

a. almanac

c. encyclopedia

b. reader's guide to periodical literature

d. dictionary

5. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

a. to persuade the reader to use leeches

b. to entertain the reader with a leech tale

c. to inform the reader on uses of leeches

d. to describe leeches to the reader

6. What genre would this be a part of?

a. drama

c. non-fiction

b. science fiction

d. folklore

7. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?

a. understated

c. speculative

b. celebratory

d. informative

## **Discussion**

Read the following passage.

*Stanley slowly peeled an onion. He liked eating them one layer at a time.*

**1. How is Zero “peeling” off layers of who he is?**

**2. List some of the things that we have learned about Zero and his past.**



## HOLES

Test ~ Chapters 29 - 41

1. What did Mr. Sir give to Zigzag for his birthday?
  - a. a shovel
  - b. extra juice
  - c. a cake
  - d. a medal
2. Which of the following boys is great with math?
  - a. Stanley
  - b. X-Ray
  - c. Zigzag
  - d. Zero
3. Who digs some of Stanley's hole for him each day?
  - a. Mr. Pendanski
  - b. Zero
  - c. Sqid
  - d. X-Ray
4. How do the other boys react to Stanley getting his hole dug for him?
  - a. They are happy for Stanley.
  - b. They are angry about it.
  - c. They are sad for Stanley.
  - d. They do not care.
5. Why does Mr. Pendanski fire his gun?
  - a. to kill a lizard
  - b. to break up a fight
  - c. to signal time for clean up
  - d. to scare away buzzards
6. After Zero left, the new camper assigned to Tend D was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Tboz
  - b. Twitch
  - c. Leo
  - d. Bo
7. What happened to the water truck when Stanley jumped in to drive it?
  - a. He ran it into a hole.
  - b. It ran out of gas.
  - c. The brakes gave out.
  - d. It cut off.
8. Where did Stanley find Zero?
  - a. at the bottom of Big Thumb
  - b. at the top of Big Thumb
  - c. under a boat
  - d. inside a hole

9. Based on what we've learned from the subplot of this novel, Sploosh is most likely

\_\_\_\_\_.

- a. onion paste
- b. spiced peaches
- c. apple juice
- d. blueberry pie

10. What do Stanley and Zero eat to survive?

- a. berries
- b. onions
- c. potatoes
- d. coconuts

11. In *Holes* Big Thumb could most likely symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. wisdom
- b. hope
- c. a mountain top
- d. escape

*The sploosh had saved Zero's life, but it was now destroying him from the inside.*

12. What type of irony is used in this passage?

- a. dramatic
- b. situational
- c. verbal

13. When Stanley went down the mountain to get the shovel, he had to stop to rest two times. This emphasizes \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. how miraculous it was that he was able to carry Zero up the mountain.
- b. how strong Stanley is
- c. how heavy Zero is
- d. how steep the mountain is

14. Which of the following best describes Stanley and Zero's relationship at this point in the book?

- a. They are good friends.
- b. They are secretly afraid of each other.
- c. They are jealous of one another.
- d. They do not like each other.

**Holes**  
**Answer Key Test Chapters 29-41**

1	b
2	d
3	b
4	b
5	b
6	b
7	a
8	c
9	b
10	b
11	b
12	b
13	a
14	a

# HOLES

## Chapter 42

### Theme

**A theme is a story's central message; it is a lesson that you learn about life.**

Some things to remember about theme are:

- Theme is what the author wants you to remember most.
- Occasionally the theme is stated directly in the novel/passage.
- Most often, the theme is unstated and is revealed to the reader gradually throughout the novel/passage.
- Theme is written as a statement, not just a word.
- There can be more than one theme in a novel.
- Different readers can have completely different theme statements. This is fine as long as each reader can support his/her idea with evidence from the novel/passage.

In this book, one of the themes has to do with destiny or fate. Write a theme statement and then explain how this theme is true for the characters in this novel and how it is true in life in general.

Theme statement

How this is true for the characters in the novel

Passage to support your theme (look on page 187)

How this is true in life in general?

# HOLES

## Chapter 43

### Onomatopoeia & Predict

**Onomatopoeia** is the use of words whose sound suggests their meaning (bam, boom, pop)

Onomatopoeia can make writing come to life and add imagery. There are several examples of onomatopoeia in this chapter.

First, in the box below, list as many onomatopoeia words as you can think of.

Complete the following chart to take a look at the onomatopoeia used in chapter forty-three of *Holes*. The page numbers have been provided. Go back to each page listed and see if you can find the onomatopoeia word.

Page #	Onomatopoeia Word
190	
191	
193	
197	

### Predict

What do you think will happen? Will Stanley and Zero get caught? Explain your prediction.

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## HOLES

Chapters 44-45

Cliffhanger Ending & Suspense

### Cliffhanger Endings

Louis Sachar leaves us with cliffhanging endings in chapters forty-four, forty-five and forty-six. In a cliffhanger ending, the reader is left to wonder what will happen next, and usually can't wait to turn the page to find out!

1. What made the ending a cliffhanger in chapter forty-four? What could you not wait to find out?
  
2. What about at the end of chapter forty-five?

### Suspense

*He could see lizards. He tried to stay still. The Warden said to wait. She said it wouldn't take long for the boys to die.*

The action in chapter forty-five is NOT written like the above passage, and thankfully so! If it were, it would lack suspense. Go back and read the actual passage from pages 205-206. Read it, and then compare it to the one above.

What does Louis Sachar add to create suspense? Make a list. It has been started for you.

1. He reveals the specific location of the lizards, allowing the reader to picture this dangerous situation.
  
- 2.
  
- 3.

# HOLES

## Chapter 46

### Flashback

#### Flashback

A flashback is a literary device in which an earlier episode, conversation, or event is inserted into the chronological sequence of a story. It is a technique that bridges time, place, and action to reveal information about a character. Flashbacks are also used to fill in information about the background of a conflict or to advance the story.

Purposes of flashbacks	Some cues that begin a flashback for a character	Some words that signal a flashback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ to fill in information about the background of a conflict</li><li>❖ to fill in information about the background of a character</li></ul>	sound odor taste related setting daydreams, thinking, dreams	Once Long ago Yesterday A while back

Reread the following passage from pages 53-54.

*His brain took him back to a time when he was very little, all bundled up in a snowsuit. He and his mother were walking, hand in hand, mitten in mitten, when they both slipped on some ice and fell and rolled down a snow-covered hillside. They ended up at the bottom of the hill. He remembered he almost cried, but instead he laughed. His mother laughed too.*

Using the chart above for help, which clues began this flashback?

- a. a sound
- b. an odor
- c. a related setting
- d. a dream or daydream

What is the purpose of this flashback?

- a. to give us more information about Stanley's conflict
- b. to give us more information about Stanley as a character

What do we learn about Stanley from this flashback?

- a. He made a good situation out of something that was frightening at first.
- b. He is very bright.
- c. He wants to be in charge.

# HOLES

## Chapter 47

### Drawing Conclusions & Making Inferences

#### Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions

Whenever we read something, we are constantly making inferences and drawing conclusions. When you infer something, you figure it out. We do this based on what we already know from our prior knowledge or what we learn from the text.

The theory that the lizards are not hungry is squashed when the lizard eats the tarantula. Why do you think that the lizards have not bitten Stanley and Zero?

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Who is Ms. Walker? Where have we heard that name before?

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Why is Stanley's name on the suitcase?

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# HOLES

## Chapter 48

### Inside/Out Profile

Let's take a closer look at the Warden after this chapter. On the following chart, make a list of adjectives that describe how the Warden seems to others. Next to each adjective, write a word that suggests her inner emotions, thoughts, and values. This way we can examine her from the inside out.

The Warden's Outside	The Warden on the inside (her inner emotions, thoughts, and/or values)	Passage to prove this
tall		
red headed		

## Discussion

What do you think should happen to the Warden? Describe what you think would be the perfect punishment for her.

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**HOLES**  
**Create Readers' Theater**  
**Directions**

You will create a readers' theater script for chapter \_\_\_\_\_.

Your script should have \_\_\_\_\_ parts including two narrators.

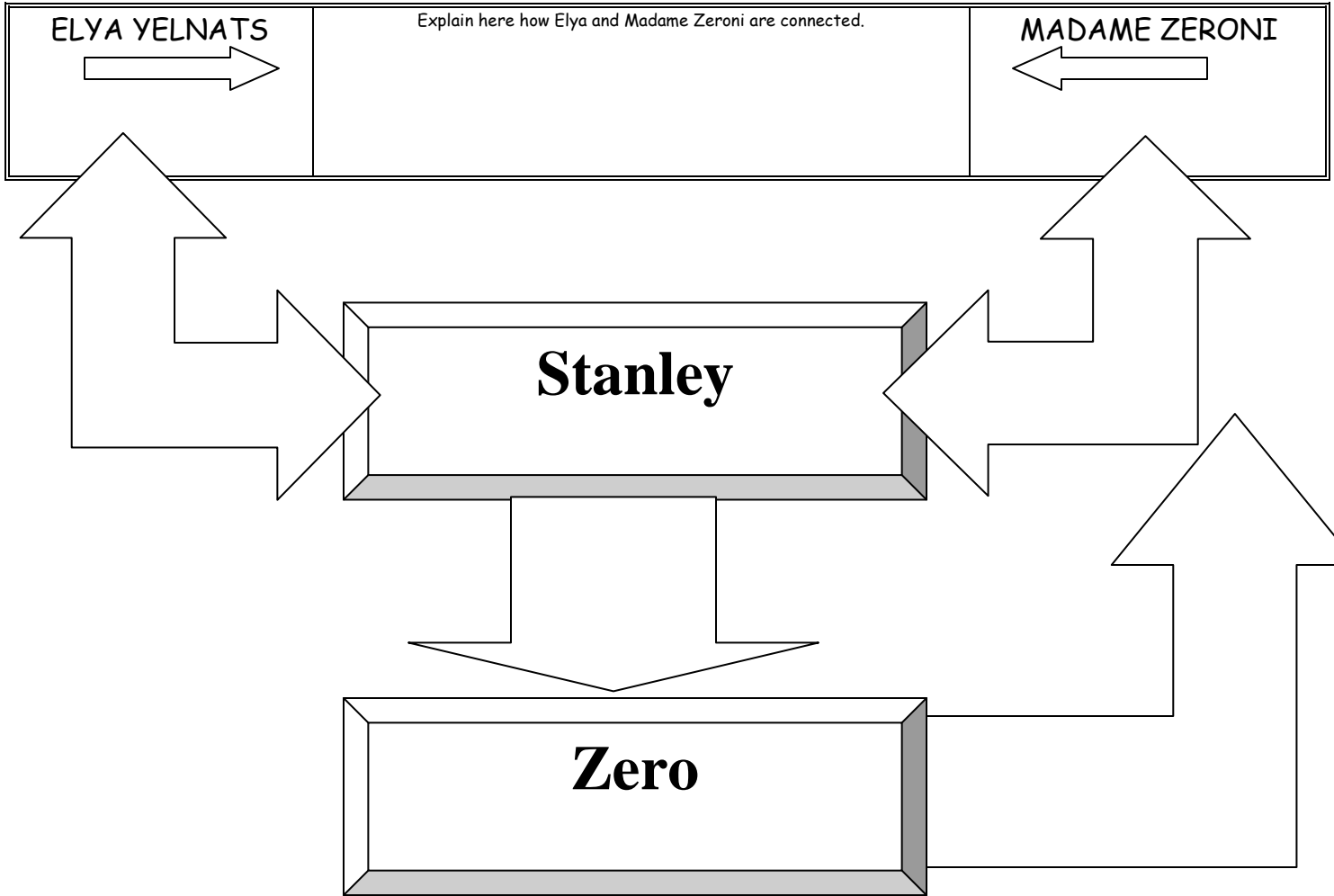
1. Silently, each member of the group must read the chapter taking notice and counting how many characters have dialogue.
2. After the silent read, make sure that everyone in the group came up with the same number of "speaking parts".
3. You will add two narrators to your script to read everything that is not dialogue of a character.
4. Whenever possible, turn indirect speech into direct speech. The following is indirect speech: *Sheka asked her mom if she could go, but her mom said no.* To turn this into direct speech, you would write it this way:  
Sheka: Can I go?  
Mom: No.
5. You may eliminate words that are not needed, such as *she said*, however, do not eliminate other parts unless they are totally unnecessary. You will not need quotation marks around what a character says since you are turning this into a skit.
6. Write the character's name on the left-hand side of the page. Underline the character's name. Put a colon (:) after the character's name, and then write what that character will say.
7. Call the narrators *Narrator 1* and *Narrator 2*.
8. Go back and forth between narrator 1 and 2 giving each equal amounts of narration.
9. Underline or use all CAPS for words that need to be stressed.
10. Use parenthesis to provide directions for how something should be said.

## Discussion After Readers' Theater

1. Why does the drop of rain fall into the empty lake at this point?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do you think Stanley's father will name the product he has invented?

**HOLES**  
Chapter 50  
Making Connections

Directions: Write inside each arrow to explain how all of these characters are connected.



Study the first song from Stanley's childhood and the song on the last page sung by Hector's mother. Can you find a connection between the two?

**Holes**  
**What if...**

**What if Zero had never stolen those shoes?**

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**What if Stanley hadn't been put in group D?**

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**What if Kate had never fallen in love with Sam?**

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**What if Trout had not gone after Sam and killed him?**

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**Holes**  
Character Analysis

<b>Character</b>	<b>Traits</b>	<b>Round/flat</b>	<b>Static/dynamic</b>
<b>Stanley</b>			
<b>Zero</b>			
<b>Clyde Livingston</b>			
<b>Mr. Sir</b>			
<b>Mr. Pendanski</b>			
<b>Madame Zeroni</b>			
<b>Sam</b>			

**Holes**  
Final Test

1. Which of the following is the best overall tone of this novel?
  - a. factual and informative
  - b. serious and stern
  - c. lighthearted YET suspenseful
  - d. angry and critical
  
2. How does Stanley's relationship with Zero change by the end of the novel?
  - a. Stanley and Zero become like strangers by the end of the book.
  - b. Stanley and Zero become close friends by the end of the book.
  - c. Stanley is just like Zero by the end of the book.
  - d. Stanley and Zero are enemies by the end of the book.
  
3. Which of the following would be the best theme for this novel?
  - a. You can only love what you've got while you've got it.
  - b. Destiny sometimes plays a huge part in our lives.
  - c. Yellow spotted lizards are very dangerous.
  - d. Digging holes can make you a good person.
  
4. All of the following words describe the Warden except \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. caring
  - b. demanding
  - c. selfish
  - d. motivated
  
5. Which of the following best describes Mr. Pendanski's attitude toward Zero?
  - a. loving
  - b. turbulent
  - c. unsupportive
  - d. one-sided
  
6. The fact that Stanley left the camp to find Zero shows that Stanley is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. brave
  - b. independent
  - c. caring
  - d. all of the above
  
7. In the novel, the use of the third person point of view allows the author to -
  - a. share only Stanley's inner thoughts and feelings.
  - b. concentrate on creating unusual characters.
  - c. share what many of the characters are thinking and feeling.
  - d. describe the story's setting in vivid details.

8. Which of the following best describe Mr. Sir?
- kind and determined
  - playful and energetic
  - mean and sarcastic
  - all of the above
9. All of the following are things The Warden did EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
- She slapped Mr. Sir with her venom red nail polish.
  - She let a net full of yellow spotted lizards go inside a hole with Zero.
  - She waited and watched as the yellow spotted lizards crawled over Stanley and Zero.
  - She told Mr. Pendanski to destroy all of Hector Zeroni's records.
10. The protagonist is the main character of a story. Who is the protagonist in this novel?
- Stanley
  - Zero
  - Kate Barlow
  - The Warden
11. True or False? By the end of the novel, Mr. Sir is dead.
- True
  - false
12. Madame Zeroni tells Elya Yelnats to carry a \_\_\_\_\_ up the mountain.
- sheep
  - potato
  - pig
  - child
13. Stanley and Zero survive by eating \_\_\_\_\_.
- lizards
  - berries
  - onions
  - bugs
14. Miss Katherine becomes an outlaw because \_\_\_\_\_.
- she is no longer able to teach
  - Sam was unjustly killed
  - Trout Walker put Sam in jail
  - the school house is burned down

*"His real name is Charles Walker, but everyone calls him Trout because his two feet smelled like a couple of dead fish."*

15. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?
- simile
  - personification
  - metaphor
  - idiom



"I'm not going to run away," Stanley said.

"Good thinking," said Mr. Sir. "Nobody runs away from here."

16. What is the irony in this passage?
- It is ironic because yellow spotted lizards will kill anyone who tries to run away.
  - It is ironic because Mr. Sir is too afraid himself to run away.
  - It is ironic because both Stanley and Zero both end up in running away.
  - It is ironic because Mr. Sir says, "Good thinking."
17. All of the following characters lived in the Town of Green Lake over one hundred years ago except \_\_\_\_\_.
- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| a. Trout | c. Warden |
| b. Kate  | d. Sam    |
18. Which of the following presents the largest obstacle for Stanley?
- Derrick Dune
  - the desert
  - Clyde Livingston
  - Mr. Sir
19. Which of the following is an effect of Magnet stealing Mr. Sir's sunflower seeds?
- Mr. Sir does not give Stanley any water.
  - The Warden makes the boys in Group D dig the dirt twice.
  - Zigzag hits Stanley in the head with his shovel.
  - The Warden hides microphones around the camp to listen to the boys.
20. Who shot the sheriff of Green Lake?
- Sam
  - Trout Walker
  - The Warden
  - Miss Katherine
21. Which of the following **best** describes Stanley's attitude toward The Warden?
- critical and hateful
  - obedient and submissive
  - admiring yet uncertain
  - disrespectful yet understanding
22. All of the following issues are included in *Holes* **except** \_\_\_\_\_.
- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| a. friendship | c. perseverance |
| b. punishment | d. beauty       |

**Holes**  
**Answer Final Test**

1	C
2	B
3	B
4	A
5	C
6	D
7	C
8	C
9	B
10	A
11	B
12	C
13	C
14	B
15	A
16	C
17	C
18	B
19	A
20	D
21	B
22	D

## Writing Prompts that can be assigned after reading *Holes*

- Create a readers' theater script about the Warden's conversation with Mr. Sir after all is said and done.
- Which character do you admire most in *Holes*? Explain your choice.
- Compare one of the characters in *Holes* to another character in another book.
- Compare and contrast yourself and one of the characters in *Holes*.
- An epilog is a short final chapter of a story that discusses what happens after the main action of the story is finished. Write an epilog for *Holes*. Tell what you would have happen to the main characters after the story ends.

# ***Holes***

## **Writing Opportunity**

**Cinquain:** a poem containing five lines

Write a cinquain poem using a character or object found in the novel as the basis of your poem. The cinquain format and topic suggestions are listed.

### Cinquain Poem Format

Line 1: a noun

Line 2: two adjectives to describe the noun in line one

Line 3: three -ing verbs

Line 4: a phrase describing the noun in line one

Line 5: a synonym for the noun in line one

### Possible Topics:

Stanley

Zero

Sploosh

Camp Green Lake

The Warden

Holes

The pig

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**Holes**  
ABCs

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Think of words that are important in the novel *Holes*. Then, place the word in the appropriate box. Make sure you are able to explain why each word relates to the novel.

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	WX	YZ

# **Holes**

## **Mottos**

A motto is a word or saying that describes a principle or moral that someone lives by. Some examples are:

- The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.
- Never judge someone until you have walked a mile in his/her flip flops!

Create a T-shirt for two characters from the novel. In the center of each shirt, write a motto that this character would live by.



**Character:**



**Character:**

## Answer Keys

What it looks like	The history of Camp Green Lake	The temperature in the summer	Dangers	The worst thing that can happen to you at this camp
<p>Dry, flat wasteland</p> <p>Not much shade</p> <p>Only 2 trees - oak</p> <p>Log cabin behind the trees</p>	<p>There once was a large lake - largest in Texas</p> <p>Over 100 years ago</p> <p>Used to be a town called Green Lake</p>	<p>95 degrees in the shade in the summer</p>	<p>Rattlesnakes</p> <p>Scorpions</p> <p>yellow-spotted lizard</p>	<p>Being bitten by a yellow-spotted lizard</p>

### Comprehension Questions

Who owns the shade? **The Warden**

What do the campers do at Camp Green Lake? **Dig holes everyday in the hot sun**

**\*\*Research:** Is there really such a thing as a yellow-spotted lizard? **There is no such thing as Louis Sachar's yellow spotted lizard. There is such a thing as the yellow spotted tropical night lizard** The following web pages could be used to research this question.

[http://www.interestinganimals.net/yellow\\_spotted\\_lizard/yellow\\_spotted\\_lizard.html](http://www.interestinganimals.net/yellow_spotted_lizard/yellow_spotted_lizard.html)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow-spotted\\_tropical\\_night\\_lizard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow-spotted_tropical_night_lizard)

### Chapter 3

In puzzle piece 1, write down things that you have learned about Stanley's father. **He was an inventor. He was smart and had a lot of perseverance. But he had no luck. His name was also Stanley Yelnats. He was trying to invent a way to recycle old sneakers.**

In puzzle piece 2, write down words to describe Stanley's looks and personality. **He was overweight.**

In puzzle piece 3, write down what you know about Stanley's great- great- grandfather. **He stole a pig from a one-legged Gypsy, and she put a curse on him and all of his descendants. He had bad luck.**

In puzzle piece 4, write down what you know about why Stanley must go to Camp Green Lake. **It was his dad's latest project that led him to Camp Green Lake. He was arrested for something, but we don't know what yet.**

### Chapters 4&5

The Rules for Camp Green Lake According to Mr. Sir	The Rules for Camp Green Lake According to Mr. Pendanski
<p>1. Call me Mr. Sir whenever you speak to me.</p> <p>2. Wear one set of provided clothes to work in and one set for relaxation.</p> <p>3. Dig one hole each day - even on Saturday and Sunday. The hole must be five feet deep and five feet wide. Use your shovel to measure the hole.</p> <p>4. Breakfast is served at 4:30.</p> <p>5. If you dig up anything interesting, you are to report it.</p>	<p>1. Don't upset the Warden.</p>

What do the differences in the men's rules let the reader know about them as characters? Answers will vary - possible response may be that Mr. Sir is much stricter and harsher than Mr. Pendanski. Mr. Pendanski is more sensible and more approachable.

1. At this point, which character is most likable? Mr. Sir Mr. Pendanski

Why? Answers will vary - responses will be based on student's individual opinions.

2. Which of the rules listed in the chart do you feel would be the most difficult for you to follow? Answers will vary.

Explain why. Answers will vary - responses will be based on student's individual opinions

## Chapter 6

...On the day Stanley was arrested, Derrick – a bully- had taken Stanley’s notebook and dropped it in the toilet in the boys’ restroom.

- **By the time Stanley retrieved it he had missed his bus and had to walk home.**
- **The sneakers fell from the sky and hit him on the head while he was walking under a freeway overpass. He thought it was a good sign, so he started running home.**
- **A policeman saw him running. Then took the shoes and made a call on his radio, and Stanley was arrested.**

The judge said that there was an opening at Camp Green lake, and he suggested that the discipline of the camp might improve Stanley’s character.

## Chapters 7-12

Accept reasonable answers.

## Chapter 13

Predict

What do you think the tube may be? **Answers will vary.**

Do you think X-Ray will get the day off? **Answers will vary.**

Symbolism

What does the order in which the boys stand in line symbolize?

- their freedom
- their rank or superiority**
- how mean each boy is
- how smart each boy is

Why did Stanley get moved up one place in line?

**Because he found the gold tube, then told X-Ray that he should wait and show it to Mom the next day so he wouldn't have to dig all day. X-Ray told him to move up one place in line.**

What does this mean for Stanley?

**This means that Stanley is not at the "bottom of the totem pole" anymore. He has gained some favor with the leader - X-Ray.**

## Chapter 15 - sample answers

<b>Mr. Sir</b>	
His words tell you that he is	<b>Sarcastic, authoritative, mean, in charge</b>
His looks tell you that he	<b>Wants to look a certain way (cowboy hat and sunglasses) tough or wants to appear tough or scary (tattoo of rattlesnake)</b>
Other characters tell you that he is	
His behavior tells you that he is	
<b>The warden</b>	
Her words tell you that she is	<b>Controlling, intimidating, mean, vengeful, vicious</b>
Her looks tell you that she is	<b>Tough, wants to look intimidating</b>
Other characters tell you that she is	
Her behavior tells you that she is	<b>In charge, hateful, intimidating</b>
	<b>Easily aggravated, spiteful, greedy, manipulative</b>



## Chapter 16

What is the rhyme scheme of this nursery rhyme? aabb

Create your own nursery rhyme.

Follow the same rhyme scheme as this original one. Begin your rhyme with the following line: Sample answer

There was an old woman who lived in a hat

She was so unorganized, she didn't know where things were at

She would search all day for her long, lost stuff

Then yell at her kids with a huff and a puff!

## Chapter 18

- Is one of the characters telling this story? no

Do we know what Zero is thinking or feeling? no

As the reader, are we aware of what the other campers are doing or where Zero is before he joins Stanley? no

Point of view used is \_\_\_\_\_

- d. first person
- e. 3<sup>rd</sup> person limited omniscient
- f. 3rd person omniscient

## Chapter 19

Look in chapter nineteen at the dialogue. What are some of the different tags that the author uses? List three different ones from chapter nineteen.

Sample Answers:

whispered      called      shouted

Sample answers

"I got allergies, okay?" Squid sniffled.

"Okay," replied Stanley.

"You open your mouth again, and I'll break your jaw," he growled.

## Chapter 20

Accept Reasonable Answers.

## Chapter 21

1. Walking across the **desolate** wasteland, Stanley thought about his great-grandfather- not the pig stealer but the pig stealer's son, the one who was robbed by Kissin' Kate Barlow. (Page 92)

- a. Hot
- b. Deserted
- c. Isolated
- d. Both b and c

2. When he was asked how he had lived so long, he said he "found **refuge** on God's thumb."

- a. Water
- b. Food
- c. Peace
- d. Protection

3. "Do you know the alphabet?" Stanley asked.

For a second, he thought he saw a flash of **defiance** in Zero's eyes, but then it passed. "I think I know some of it," Zero said...(page 96)

- a. non-cooperation
- b. determination
- c. sadness
- d. a smile

4. Later that night, as he lay on his cot, Stanley **reconsidered** the deal he had made with Zero. Getting a break every day would be a relief, but he knew X-Ray wouldn't like it. (page 99)

- a. Thought about again
- b. Forgot
- c. Tried to create
- d. Remembered

## Chapter 23 & 24

- Who is Miss Katherine? *Katherine Barlow was the town's only school teacher.*
- Who is Trout? *His real name was Charles Walker. His feet smelled like dead fish. Everyone thought Katherine would marry Trout. He always got whatever he wanted but Miss Katherine turned him down.*

Complete the following charts about each character, and then decide if the author used direct characterization or if you concluded something about a character through indirect characterization.

<i>Passage</i>	<i>Type of characterization</i>
She was a wonderful teacher, full of knowledge and full of life. (page 102)	direct
She was very pretty. (page 102)	direct
A lot of men in town were not educated. That didn't bother Miss Katherine. She knew they'd spent most of their lives working on farms and ranches... (page 103)	indirect

<i>Passages about Trout</i>	<i>Type of characterization</i>
...but everyone called him Trout because his two feet smelled like a couple of dead fish. Trout often showed up at night school but never paid attention. (page 103)	Indirect
He was loud and stupid. (page 103)	Direct
...He found it hard to believe that Miss Katherine had turned him down. (page 103)	Indirect

## Chapter 25

*Doc Hawthorn did not resent Sam... They would get regular medicine from Doc Hawthorn and onion concoctions from Sam...After they got over their illness, no one could be sure, not even Doc Hawthorn, which of the two treatments had done the trick. Doc Hawthorn was almost completely bald, and in the morning his head often smelled like onions.*

Why is it ironic that Doc Hawthorn often smelled like onions? This is ironic because the doctor is believing that the onions will cure baldness. Most doctors would not use or trust non-medical remedies.

What type of irony is this? A. verbal      b. situational      c. dramatic

### Discussion

Why does Hattie Parker say to Katherine and Sam "God will punish you!?" What does this tell us about the historical context of the subplot?

Hattie Parker says this because Katherine is a white woman kissing a black man. As for the historical context, during this time in history, in many places, it was "forbidden" for a person of the white race to kiss a person of the black race.

## Chapter 27 Sample Answers

<i>Character's Name</i>	<i>Why that name fits the character</i>
Mr. Sir	He demands respect and wants everyone to know that he is in charge.
X-Ray	He likes to be in charge, and he wants to know everything that is going on. He wants to see everything.
Zero	His name reflects what others think of him. The other characters think he is a "nobody" and incapable of thinking on his own. Also, he is at the "bottom of the totem pole" when it comes to the ranking of the campers.
Trout	His feet stink like a dead fish.

### Discussion

How does the name Miss Katherine seem compared to the name Kissin' Kate Barlow? What does her new name do for this character?

Miss Katherine seems innocent and sweet whereas Kissin' Kate sounds harsh, experienced, and like an outlaw. Her new name turns her from a victim to a villain.

Think about the name of the book. There are other "holes" in this book besides digging holes at the camp. Symbolically, what "holes" did Stanley have in his life before arriving at Camp Green Lake?

Stanley didn't feel excepted in his life before camp. He was bullied at school. His family had bad luck

What are some of the "holes" in the book - things about which the reader is left to wonder? List some of the questions that you have about the plot and subplot. Accept reasonable answers: Sample answer below

How will Stanley's family history link to his current situation?

## Chapter 29 Sample Answer

It was almost as if the temperature

Had risen so high that the

## Chapter 30

**Tone** - the writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details

"Hey, Caveman," said Zigzag. "You should get a whip. Then if your slave doesn't dig fast enough, you can crack it across his back." (page 132)

Which word best describes the tone of Zigzag's attitude in this passage?

- a. sorrowful      b. anxious      c. fearful      d. sarcastic

## Chapter 31

What is Zero's real name? Hector Zeroni

Where have you heard his last name before? What may be the link?

Madame Zeroni...Maybe they are kin.

Describe what you think God's Thumb may be like.

Accept reasonable descriptions.

Predict. What do you think Zero is doing? What do you think will happen to him?

Accept reasonable predictions.

## Chapter 33

First of all, it is ironic that there is a boat in the middle of this barren desert. What else is ironic in this passage? Explain why this is situational irony.

It is ironic that Stanley may very well die of thirst in the same spot where someone may have drowned. This is ironic because a person could not drown if there was no water and a person could not thirst if there was water.

## Chapter 35

Type	Definition	Example
Bandwagon	an appeal for others to "join the crowd" in order to be on the "winning side"	Millions of people are using this soap! Shouldn't you buy some today?
Testimonial	a famous person <u>endorses</u> a product, person, or idea	Tiger Woods, a famous golfer, says that he eats a particular kind of cereal.
Card Stacking	presenting only the positive information and leaving out anything that may be negative	This detergent will get your clothes as clean as the day you purchased them. And, you never have to worry about fading!
Glittering Generalities	emotionally appealing words are used to describe a product or idea, but no evidence is given to support it	Our face lotion will give you younger, radiant skin instantly. Your friends will think you spent time with a plastic surgeon!
Name Calling	the use of words that have a negative connotation	My opponent is not supportive of public education. Furthermore, she refuses to realize that credit card reform is needed in this country.
Plain Folks	the use of common, ordinary people are used to promote a product	Busy moms everywhere serve their families our pasta!
Transfer	projecting the positive or negative qualities of a person, object, or value to another to make the second more acceptable or to discredit it	A used car salesman stands in front of a large American flag as he shows the newest car available on his lot.

## Chapter 36

1. What does Zero mean by this statement?

Accept reasonable answers. Sample answer ~ Zero means that when you have had a hard life like he has, things can only get better.

2. What kind of irony is used in this passage? verbal **situational** or dramatic

Explain how you know.

*This is situational irony because the one thing that has saved him is now destroying him. Situational irony comes into play when something unexpected happens, often with a weird twist.*

*"I wonder who she was," said Zero.*

*"Who?"*

*"Mary Lou," said Zero.*

*Stanley smiled. "I guess she was once a real person on a real lake. It's hard to imagine."*

*"I bet she was real pretty," said Zero. "Somebody must have loved her a lot, to name a boat after her."*

*"Yeah," said Stanley. "I bet she looked great in a bathing suit, sitting in the boat while her boyfriend rowed."*

3. What kind of irony is used in this passage? verbal **situational** or **dramatic**

Explain how you know.

*This is dramatic irony because the reader knows that Mary Lou was really a donkey and not a woman. This irony creates humor because the reader is able to picture a donkey in a bathing suit. ☺*

*When they reached flat ground, Stanley looked up to see the sun, a fiery ball balancing on top of Big Thumb. God was twirling a basketball.*

4. What type of figurative language is used in this passage?

**Simile**

5. Predict what you think will happen when they reach *Big Thumb*.

Accept reasonable predictions.

## Chapters 37 & 38

1. In *Holes* Big Thumb could most likely symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. wisdom
  - b. hope
  - e. a mountain top
  - f. escape
2. The weeds, thorns, and bugs that Stanley and Zero come upon while climbing Big Thumb could most likely symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the long climb up the mountain
  - b. the hardships the boys have had to overcome
  - c. nature
  - d. the success that lies ahead for them
3. In *Holes*, onions could most likely symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Evil and wrong doing
  - b. Goodness and survival
  - c. Vegetables and nutrition
  - d. Freedom and escape

What may the following things symbolize in the book? *Sample answers below*

- a. The order in which the boys line up for water and other things. - rank, superiority, leadership
- b. peaches - fortune
- c. holes - trials, suffering

## Chapter 39

What do you think about Zero's "confession"? What could have happened?

*Accept reasonable answers.*

Who is the speaker in the first line of the song?

- a. the wolf
- b. the woodpecker
- c. Stanley
- d. The moon "

This song has a \_\_\_\_\_ tone.

- a. unhappy
- b. witty
- c. cheerful
- d. amusing

If Stanley and Zero made up their own lyrics to this song to describe their current predicament, what might the lyrics be? Create a new version of this song involving Stanley and Zero. Begin your song with the same words: *If only, if only...* *Sample Poem below*

"If only, if only" the two boys sigh

"The water and onions would make us a little bit stronger."

While the campers still dig in the sweltering heat

They cry to the huge big thumb,

"If only, if only."

## Chapters 40 & 41

1. Who is Mrs. Tennyson thanking in this passage for helping Becca, her daughter?
  - a. Mary Lou
  - b. Sam
  - c. Hattie Parker
  - d. Mr. Pike

2. Which word best describes Mrs. Tennyson's tone in the underlined portion of the passage?
- gleeful
  - threatening
  - bewildered
  - worshipful
3. What does Mrs. Tennyson think helped Becca finally get rid of her fever?
- candy
  - time
  - onion tonic
  - eggs

**Quack:** \kwak\ v 1: to make the characteristic cry of a duck n 2: a noise made by quacking 3: a pretender to medical skill adj 4 : of, relating to quacks, or used by quacks <quack cancer cures

4. Which definition from the dictionary entry above matches the use of quack in the passage?
- verb 1
  - noun 2
  - noun 3
  - adjective 4

## Chapter 42

In this book, one of the themes has to do with destiny or fate. Write a theme statement and then explain how this theme is true for the characters in this novel and how it is true in life in general. **Sample Answer below**

Theme statement

**Fate has an impact on everyday life.**

How this is true for the characters in the novel

**If Kate Barlow had not robbed Stanley's great-grandfather, Camp Green Lake would probably not even exist. It was Fate that the shoes fell on Stanley's head, fate that he met Zero, and fate that he fell in the mud and thus found the onions that saved them from the yellow spotted lizards. It was all fate that brought Stanley and Zero together where the water runs uphill, so a Yelnats could keep an age-old promise to a Zeroni.**

How this is true in life in general.

**In our lives, we must wonder if fate does not play a part in what happens to us.**

## Chapter 43-44

First, in the box below, list as many onomatopoeia words as you can think of. **A few sample answers are provided.**

**Bam, boom, pop, click, crash, crackle, smack, ring**

Complete the following chart to take a look at the onomatopoeia used in chapter forty-three of *Holes*. The page numbers have been provided. Go back to each page listed and see if you can find the onomatopoeia word. Then, analyze it and try to explain what it adds to the sentence or passage.

Page #	Onomatopoeia Word
190	<b>squeaks</b>
191	<b>groaned</b>
193	<b>clinked</b>
197	<b>clanking</b>

## Chapter 45

Louis Sachar leaves us with cliffhanging endings in chapters forty-four, forty-five and forty-six. In a cliffhanger ending, the reader is left to wonder what will happen next, and usually can't wait to turn the page to find out!

- What made the ending a cliffhanger in chapter forty-four? What could you not wait to find out?  
**The reader is left feeling disappointment for Stanley and Zero, and we are also left wondering what will happen to Stanley and Zero by the Warden.**
- What about at the end of chapter forty-five?  
**The fact that a yellow-spotted lizard is crawling on Stanley. The reader is left to wonder if he will survive!**

### Suspense

*He could see lizards. He tried to stay still. The Warden said to wait. She said it wouldn't take long for the boys to die.*

The action in chapter forty-five is NOT written like the above passage, and thankfully so! If it were, it would lack suspense. Below is the actual passage from pages 205-206. Read it, and then compare it to the one above.

What does Louis Sachar add to create suspense? Make a list. It has been started for you.

1. He reveals the specific location of the lizards, allowing the reader to picture this dangerous situation.
2. He allows us to hear conversation, slowing the action. He also allows us to know the reaction of the counselors - "Oh my God" which heightens the danger of the situation.
3. With the Warden's and Mr. Pendanski's comments, the author allows us to wonder if Stanley and Zero will not be killed, which adds to the extreme suspense.

## Chapter 46

Using the chart above for help, which clues began this flashback?

- a. a sound
- b. an odor
- c. a related setting
- d. a dream or daydream

What is the purpose of this flashback?

- a. to give us more information about Stanley's conflict
- b. to give us more information about Stanley as a character

What do we learn about Stanley from this flashback?

- a. He made a good situation out of something that was frightening at first.
- b. He is very bright.
- c. He wants to be in charge.

## Chapter 47

The theory that the lizards are not hungry is squashed when the lizard eats the tarantula. Why do you think that the lizards have not bitten Stanley and Zero?

Because Stanley and Zero have been eating onions.

Who is Ms. Walker? Where have we heard that name before?

Ms. Walker is the Warden. Trout Walker

Why is Stanley's name on the suitcase?

His name is on the suitcase because it belonged to his great grandfather.

## Chapter 48

The Warden's Outside	The Warden on the inside (her inner emotions, thoughts, and/or values)	Passage to prove this
Tall	Nervous, anxious	..."How do I know there aren't drugs or weapons in there? He stole a car, too! I've got witnesses!" she was nearly hysterical (page 218)
Red headed	Demanding	.."Get it!" she ordered (page 220)

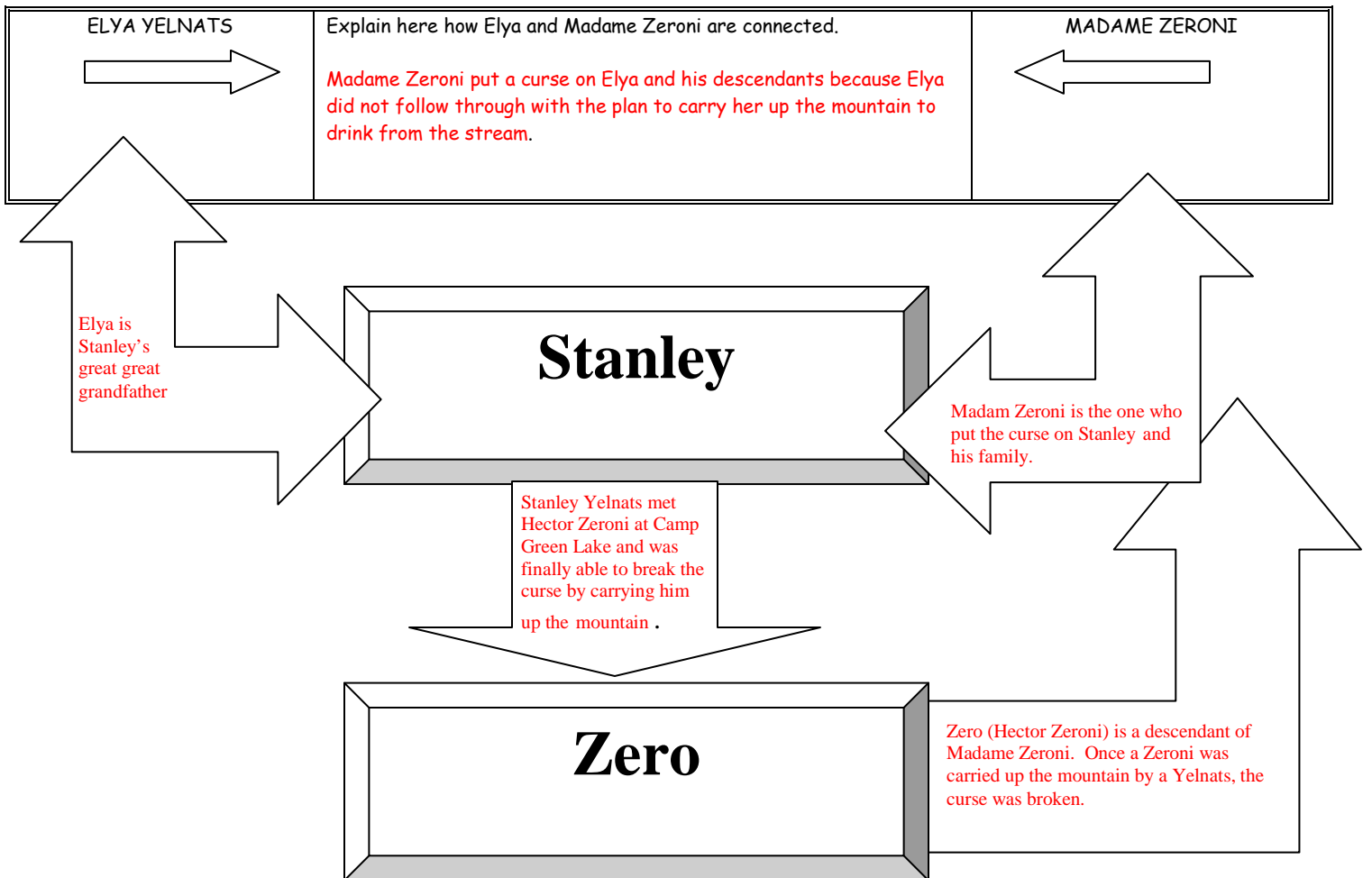
### Discussion

What do you think should happen to the Warden? Describe what you think would be the perfect punishment for her.

Accept reasonable answers.

## Chapter 50 Making Connections

Directions: Write inside each arrow to explain how all of these characters are connected.





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