**Holes**

**Reading Activities**

**by Louis Sachar**

**Predicting** (what you think something may be about)

Before reading this book, look at the front cover, the illustrations, scan read through the book and read the blurb on the back cover. Then become a prediction detective:

In your jotter make predictions about the Characters, Events and Settings in your book. Use 3 headings, listed Characters, Events and Settings in your jotter. Then write your predictions under these headings and provide evidence why you have made these predictions (you could use page numbers of things you have linked to your opinion or perhaps connections you have made to other texts or knowledge you have read or learned about.)

**Summarising**

Use a page at the back of your jotter and write and then underline the heading *Summary.*

Use this page to record the main points of each chapter.

Part One - You are Entering Camp Green Lake

Chapters 1,2,3,4 & 5

Answer the following questions in sentences in your jotter.

1. What is strange about the Camp’s name?
2. What is the purpose of Camp Green Lake?
3. Describe Camp Green Lake.
4. Who did Stanley and his family blame for anything that went wrong in his family and Why?
5. Using ICT or a dictionary find out the meaning of the word perseverance. Then write a sentence of your own, using the word perseverance.
6. What was special about Stanley Yelnats name?
7. What was Stanley’s dad hoping to invent?
8. Why doesn’t the camp have any fences around it?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Visualisation

After reading these chapters, visualise(imagine what something looks like) what Camp Green Lake looks like and draw a picture of how you think it looks like and then use adjectives(describing words) to describe your drawing.

Chapters 6 & 7

1. Explain why Stanley had got Clyde Livingston’s Trainers and why he had got in so much trouble for it.
2. Using a dictionary or ICT, look up the following words and write the meaning of them in your jotter: compacted, excavated, preposterous and accomplish.
3. Describe, in detail, how Stanley’s grandfather had brought about a ‘curse’ on their family.
4. What does each boy do when they finish digging their holes?
5. Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

\*Complete the Palindrome Worksheet.

Chapters 8,9,10,11 & 12

1. List 4 main facts about yellow-spotted lizards.
2. What was funny about the sign on the boy’s recreation room (rec for short) saying ‘wreck room’?
3. What was Stanley named by the other boys?
4. Why do you think Stanley wrote lies in his letters to his mother about how the camp was?
5. Why was digging his second hole worse than the first?
6. What was the first thing that Stanley found?
7. Why do you think that Stanley agreed to give X-Ray anything else he found?
8. On page 58 what is the simile the author uses and what effect does it have on you as a reader?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Research lizards and create a fact file to inform others about them; remember to draw a picture of what some of them look like.

Chapters 13,14,15 & 16

1. As time went on and Stanley had been digging holes at the camp, what physical changes to himself did he notice?
2. What was the second thing Stanley found and what did he suggest X-Ray do with it when he gave him the object?
3. What did X-Ray then do for Stanley and what did this mean?
4. Using adjectives (describing words) describe what the warden looked like.
5. What was X-Ray’s reward for finding the object?
6. Why were they really digging holes?
7. How did the warden know all their names without really meeting any of them?
8. Why do you think the author says that: ‘Stanley gazed across the lake, towards the spot where he had been digging yesterday when he found the gold tube. He dug the hole into his memory.’?
9. At the end of chapter 16, how does the author infer(hint) that Zero has not had a good childhood?

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Follow Up Task

Imagine you are Stanley and write a letter home to his parents.

Chapters 17,18, 19 & 20

1. What did Zero ask Stanley to do for him?
2. What is your opinion of Stanley refusing to teach Zero? Give reasons.
3. What happened when Stanley got the warden’s sunflower seeds and how did he try to cover it up?
4. What was special about the warden’s special nail polish?

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Follow Up Task

Write some questions you would like to ask the author (Louis Sachar)of this book. Then research the author and see if you can find any answers to your questions. Discuss your findings with a partner.

Chapters 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25

1. When Stanley returned to the desert to dig his hole, what surprise did he get?
2. What was Zero’s real reason for helping Stanley?
3. What arrangement did Stanley and Zero agree upon?
4. What did Stanley quickly realise that Zero was very good at?
5. What did Stanley think the gold tube he found in the hole was a nd who did he think it belonged to?
6. What simile does the author use to describe how the lake that used to be at the camp ?
7. What did Kate Barlow used to win prizes for?
8. What was Sam well known for?
9. Why couldn’t Kate Barlow and Sam be in a relationship together back then in America?
10. What happened to Green Lake after they shot Sam and his donkey?
11. How did Kate react after Sam had been killed?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Create a wanted poster for Kate Barlow.

Chapters 27& 28

1. Do you think that the boys should be complaining about Zero digging Stanley’s hole? Give reasons.
2. Do you think that Mr. Sir had done something to Stanley’s water bottle when he eventually filled it up?
3. What was Zero’s real name?
4. Describe how Kate Barlow came to her end.

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Inferring – DIRDS (described, illustrated, responded, what they do and say)

Choose a **character** from the book and answer the following questions using all the inferences(hints) that the author provides us with:

Described- How does the author describe the character?

Illustrated- How do the illustrations represent the character?

Responded to - How do other characters react to this one?

Do- What does the character do to give us clues about their distinguishing traits and qualities?

Say - What does the character actually say to give us clues about their traits

Part 2 - The Last Hole

Chapters 29,30 & 31

1. On page 127 list some of the adjectives (describing words) that the author uses to describe how the weather has become at the lake.
2. Why do you think the boys were so concerned about Zero digging Stanley’s hole?
3. In your opinion how do you think the camp leaders treated Zero? Give examples.
4. What was the warden’s solution to Zero running away from the camp?

5. Which place did Stanley hope that Zero had found to help him survive in the desert?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Comparing

Using your Venn diagram template to help you compare yourself to either Stanley or Zero.

Chapters 32,33,34 & 35

1. What had Twitch being arrested for?
2. What did Stanley do in the attempt to help save Zero?
3. What did Stanley find out in the desert and who did he find there?
4. What do you think ‘sploosh’ was?
5. Who had the Mary-Lou boat belonged to in the past?

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Follow Up Task

Connecting

Write about an experience you have had that is similar to something that has happened in this book or about another story you have read before.

Chapters 36,37,38 & 39

1. What kind of character must Zero and Stanley have to keep climbing toward ‘Big Thumb’, even though they felt exhausted?
2. As both boys climb nearer Big Thumb, the author describes the sun as ‘a fiery ball balancing on top of Big Thumb. God was twirling a basketball.’, What effect does this language have on you?
3. Using ICT or a dictionary find the meaning of the following words and write the meaning in your jotter: altitude, increments, contritely & indentation.
4. How did Stanley suspect that they must be approaching water soon?
5. Other than water, what else did Stanley find that would help them to survive?
6. What did Zero admit to Stanley about Clyde Livingston’s shoes?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Choose a character from this book and use as many adjectives to describe them as you can, both how you think they look and their personality. Then swap your character description with a partner and try to create an illustration of the character your partner has chosen based on their character description.

Chapters 40,41,42 & 43

1. What actually was the root of the white flowers that Stanley had found?
2. What helped Stanley and Zero survive for a few days up the mountain and gain their strength?
3. Why did Stanley think it was destiny that had brought Zero and him together?
4. Why had Zero had a sad life?
5. What do you think Stanley and Zero hoped to find in the last hole they were going to dig?

Summarise - Remember to record a summary (the main points) of this chapter at the back of your jotter, on your summary page.

Follow Up Task

Write an alternative ending to this book.

Chapters 44,45, 46 & 47

1. Describe how you think Stanley and Zero must have felt after using so much strength and energy to find the suitcase of treasure, when the warden suddenly appeared to take it from them.
2. What stopped the warden from just taking the suitcase from Stanley and Zero?
3. Why did it suit the warden’s plans that Stanley and Zero were covered in lizards?
4. After Stanley and Zero escaped from the hole, what was a surprise about the suitcase?
5. Who appeared to free Stanley?

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Follow Up Task

Design a new front cover for this book. Don't forget the title and the authors name.

Chapters 48, 49 & 50(Part 3 -Filling in the Holes)

1. Why was Zero able to leave the camp with Stanley?
2. Why do you think the ‘curse’ was lifted?
3. Using ICT or a dictionary find out the meaning of the following words: precarious, strenuous, tedious, jurisdiction and write the meaning of them in your jotter.
4. Why had the spotted lizards not bitten the boys?
5. What did Stanley’s father name his foot odour neutraliser?
6. What happened to Camp Green Lake?
7. Give a brief description of how Zero (Hector) and Stanley’s life turned out to be after Camp Green Lake.
8. Who did Hector’s (Zero) mother turn out to be?
9. Do you believe it was ‘fate’ that brought the two boys together? Explain your answer.

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Follow Up Task

Book Review

Write a review of Holes, using the headings below to guide you.

Who and when

Who wrote the book and when was it first published?

Setting  
Where and when does the story take place?

Plot  
What happens? Was it believable? Was it interesting?

Characters  
Who are the main characters? Who did you like most? Why?

Reading  
Was the book easy to get into? What do you think about the style it is written in? What kind of readers would like this book?

Your opinion  
What did you like or dislike about this book? How would you rate it? Brilliant? Good? Average? Terrible?