

HOLES KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Plot:

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that begins with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a juvenile detention centre, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realise there's more than character improvement going on there.

Themes:

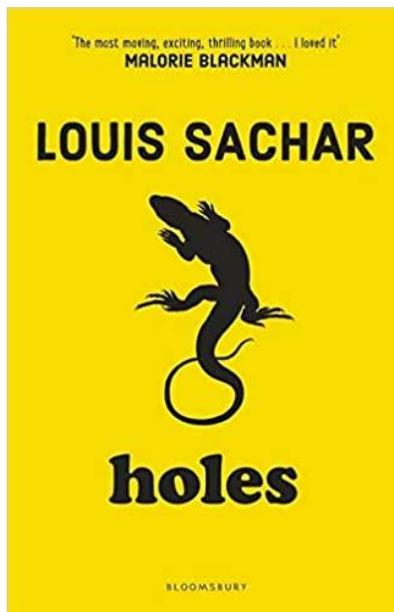
Fate and free will, justice and judgement, choices, friendship, morality.

Setting:

Camp Green Lake Detention Centre, Texas.

CHARACTERS

Stanley Yelnats	The novel's protagonist – convicted of a crime he didn't commit.
Zero	Another boy at Camp Green Lake who becomes friends with Stanley.
X-Ray	Takes charge of the boys at camp and is friendly to Stanley.
Squid	Often taunts Stanley about writing letters to his mother.
Magnet	Earned his nickname by his ability to steal things.
Armpit	Pushes Stanley to the floor when he forgets to call him by his nickname.
Zigzag	Stanley thinks that Zigzag is the weirdest kid at Camp Green Lake.
Warden	The ultimate symbol of cruel authority at Camp Green Lake.
Mr Pendanski	In charge of Tent D – Stanley's tent at Camp Green Lake.
Kate Barlow	The school teacher-turned-outlaw who robbed Stanley's great-great-grandfather.
Sam	Sam and Kate were in love 100 years ago.



Name of book:	Holes
Date Published:	1998
Author:	Louis Sachar
Genre:	Adventure

QUOTES

- “A lot of people don't believe in curses. A lot of people don't believe in yellow-spotted lizards either, but if one bites you, it doesn't make a difference whether you believe in it or not.”
- “His muscles and hands weren't the only parts of his body that had toughened over the past several weeks. His heart had hardened as well.”
- “If you take a bad boy and make him dig a hole every day in the hot sun, it will turn him into a good boy.”

VOCABULARY

aimlessly	without purpose or direction
auction	public sale in which goods/property are sold to the highest bidder.
barren	land too poor to produce much or any vegetables/crops.
calloused	having an area of hardened skin.
contritely	feeling regret and sorrow for one's sins or offences
counsellor	a person trained to give guidance on personal or psychological problems.
descendant	a person that is descended from a particular ancestor.
desolate	uninhabited and giving an impression of bleak emptiness.
incarcerate	imprison or confine
jurisdiction	the official power to make legal decisions and judgements.
juvenile	for or relating to young people.
legitimate	conforming to the law or to rules.
mirage	an optical illusion caused by atmospheric conditions.
miscarriage	an unsuccessful outcome of something planned.
precipice	a very steep rock face or cliff.
shovel	a tool resembling a spade with a broad blade and typically upturned edges.
shrivelled	withered, as with a loss of moisture
spigot	a small peg or plug.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Does fate determine your life events?
- Is your family history important in shaping your current situation and life?

