

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer  
Reading Assignment

# HOLES



By:  
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## Novel Questions Guide

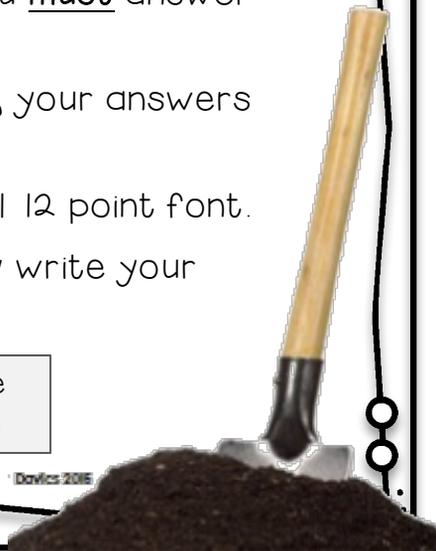
This assignment includes **two** sets of questions. You **must** answer **BOTH** sets of questions **in complete sentences**.

You **do not have to rewrite** the question; however, your answers **must be numbered** to match the questions.

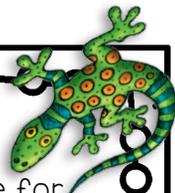
**Answers should be typed** in Century Gothic or Arial 12 point font.

(If you do not have access to a computer, you may write your answers by hand neatly and clearly.)

Questions are due to Mrs. Davis on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> day of school! Bring your book, too!



## Discussion Questions:



1. In what ways is the saying "You can't judge a book by its cover" a good one for this story? For example, what do you expect Camp Green Lake to be like based on its name? What is it really like?
2. What do you think the title Holes means? What might be another reason other than the holes the boys dig in the lake? What hole (or holes) is/are there in Stanley's life when he first arrives at Camp Green Lake? Are the holes still there where he leaves?
3. Why do the boys call Mr. Pendanski "Mom"? How does this name fit his personality? In what ways is it not a good name for him?
4. As Stanley becomes stronger and his skin becomes tougher from digging the holes, how is he changing inside? What are the causes of those changes?
5. At home, Stanley did not have friends, but at Camp Green Lake, he forms a special friendship with Zero. How did Zero and Stanley prove their friendship to each other? In what way does Zero fill a hole in Stanley's life?
6. How is Stanley's friendship with Zero similar to Kate Barlow's friendship with Sam? In each case why don't people approve of the friendship?
7. Why don't the other boys like Stanley and Zero's agreement that Zero will help Stanley dig and Stanley will help Zero read? Do you think it is fair to both Stanley and Zero? Do you think it is fair to the other campers?
8. Holes is really three stories tied together. One is about Camp Green Lake. The second is the tale of Stanley's great-great grandfather and the "curse" put on him by Madame Zeroni. The third story is of Kissin' Kate Barlow, the outlaw who robbed his great grandfather. How do these three stories fit together within the larger story of *Holes*?
9. Stanley always seems to find humor even in the worst situations. He laughs on the bus to Camp Green Lake thinking about his "no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather." While walking across the hot, dry lake, he laughs at the sight of the boat, *Mary Lou*. Climbing "Big Thumb", he even makes Zero laugh. What does this say about Stanley? How does his attitude help him?
10. Even though his fate is uncertain, Stanley is suddenly very happy as he lies awake on the top of the mountain, staring at the stars. Why does he feel this way? How has his life changed from the start of the story?

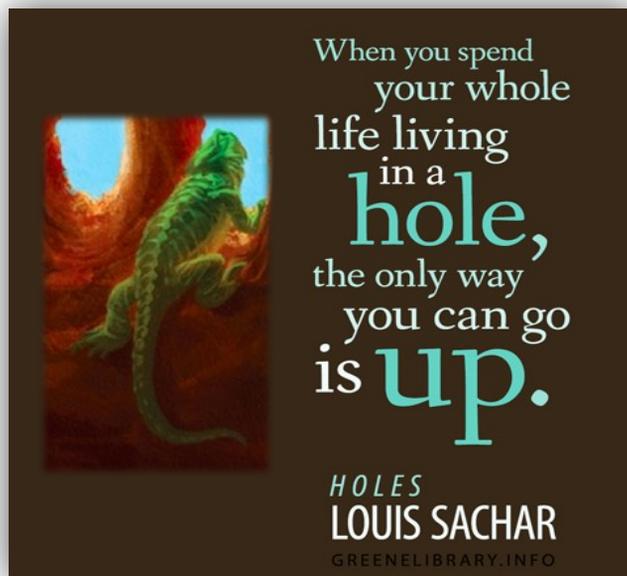




## REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS:

These questions will require you to think a bit before answering. Even though they are opinion based questions, your answers will require you to use your knowledge of the book. Please be sure to answer each part of every question.

1. What do the boys' nicknames tell about each of their personalities? Do you think a nickname changes the way others see a person? Do you think a nickname changes the way the person sees himself or herself?
2. Stanley and his family half-jokingly blame their misfortunes on Stanley's "no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather." Do you believe in fate – that people are lucky or unlucky – or do you believe, as Mr. Pendanski tells the boys, that we are all responsible for ourselves and our destinies?
3. Why do you think Stanley gives X-Ray the lipstick tube? What would you have done if you were in Stanley's place?
4. Where does Stanley find the strength to carry Zero up the mountain? Why did he do it even though he didn't know what he'd find at the top? Describe something you've done that seemed impossible at first. What did you learn from the experience?



We will complete other activities using the novel when you return to school in August! **BE SURE TO BRING YOUR BOOK.** Have a wonderful summer!