

Holes

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Activities to teach Reading, Thinking, and Writing

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Part One

Chapter 1, pages 3-4

1. What happened to Green Lake?
2. Who owns the shade at Camp Green Lake?
3. Why do campers try to get bitten by a rattlesnake or a scorpion?
4. What happens if you are bitten by a yellow-spotted lizard?
5. Why would anyone go to a place like Camp Green Lake?
6. **Predict:** What role will the yellow-spotted lizard play in the book?

Chapter 2, page 5

1. What kind of people are sent to Camp Green Lake?
2. Why do the campers have to dig holes?
3. Why does Stanley choose to go to Camp Green Lake?
4. **Predict:** Why is Stanley being sent to Camp Green Lake? What did he do?

Chapter 3, pages 6-10

1. What do Stanley and his parents pretend about Stanley going away?
2. What does Stanley think he is going to do at Camp Green Lake?
3. How is Stanley described?
4. Who does Stanley blame for his conviction?
5. Why does Stanley's family believe they have bad luck?
6. What is unusual about the name Stanley Yelnats?
7. What happened to the first Stanley Yelnats?
8. What project leads to Stanley's arrest?
9. What does Stanley first notice about Camp Green Lake?
10. **Predict:** How are sneakers connected to Stanley's troubles?

Chapter 4, pages 11-15

1. What does Stanley see when he steps out of the bus?
2. Why does the man in the cowboy hat eat sunflower seeds?
3. What is Stanley told to call the man in the cowboy hat?
4. What does Stanley have to do every day, including Saturdays and Sundays?
5. What time does Stanley have to start his day? Why?
6. What does Mr. Sir use his gun for?
7. Why doesn't Camp Green Lake need a fence?
8. **Predict:** Is there another reason campers have to dig holes?

Name _____

Holes
Activity #3 • Vocabulary
Chapters 1–3

wasteland (3)	shriveled (3)	forbidden (3)	scorpions (3)
stifling (6)	ratios (7)	slumped (7)	convicted (7)
Gypsy (8)	curse (8)	descendants (8)	vast (8)
gruff (8)	intelligence (8)	perseverance (8)	discouraged (9)
neglected (9)	befell (9)	stagecoach (9)	outlaw (9)
mansion (9)	increasingly (10)	impressed (10)	preferred (10)

Directions: Replace each underlined section with one word from the vocabulary list.

1. At Camp Green Lake, the boys are not pampered. Instead, they are not taken care of.
2. The Warden's manner is rude and abrupt, and no one questions her orders.
3. Stanley sometimes wishes he lived in a huge house.
4. Camp Green Lake is a large, barren area.
5. Stanley's father thought it was important to have the ability to keep trying even when things don't go your way.
6. Stanley is accused of stealing Clyde Livingston's shoes and is found guilty by the court.
7. Stanley's father did not get upset and give up hope when his inventions failed.
8. Stanley's great-grandfather was robbed by a(n) bandit.
9. The surrounding land is so huge, it seems to stretch on forever.
10. Stanley found nothing favorable about Camp Green Lake, and he was not pleased with it.

Choose five vocabulary words from the list above that have not yet been used. Write five sentences that each include a definition of one vocabulary word. Underline the definition. Ask a classmate to replace each definition with the correct vocabulary word.

Name _____

defective (26)
spat (30)
suckle (30)
deftly (32)
preposterous (34)
aimlessly (36)
enviously (37)
evaporated (43)
scowled (46)

Directions: Choose ten vocabulary words from the list and write each one in the middle column of the chart. Write an antonym for each word in the left-hand column. Write a synonym for each word in the right-hand column.

[illegible]

Name _____

condemned (88)	dread (88)	venom (90)	recede (91)
shrill (91)	writhed (91)	agony (91)	haze (92)
desolate (92)	stranded (92)	insane (93)	refuge (93)
coiled (93)	deposited (96)	expand (96)	defiance (96)
reconsidered (99)	astonishment (100)	emerald (101)	bushels (101)
incurable (102)	afflict (102)	ladled (104)	gurgling (105)
grotesque (105)	parched (106)	shield (106)	extraordinary (107)
digestion (108)	ointments (108)	asthma (108)	remedy (108)
arthritis (108)	resent (108)	concoctions (108)	conversation (109)
occasion (110)	quivering (111)		

Directions: Which vocabulary words from the list above describe Stanley, Zero, and the Warden? Write each vocabulary word below the name of the person you associate with it. There may be more than one way to sort the words, and you may list each word under more than one character. Be prepared to support your decisions about where words belong.

Stanley	Zero	Warden

On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph about one of the characters listed in the chart. The paragraph should include at least half of the words you listed under that character's name.

exaggerated (211)
tarnation (213)
authenticated (215)
circumstances (216)
jurisdiction (218)
apparently (220)
incarcerated (222)
promissory (230)

stark (211)
imprisonment (214)
legitimate (215)
comprehend (217)
anxious (218)
cyberspace (222)
patent (224)
caviar (231)

tarantula (212)
torture (214)
delirium(215)
detainees (218)
urgency (219)
confined (222)
tedious (230)
neutralizes (232)

fascinated (212)
authorization (214)
hallucination (215)
hysterical (218)
pursuant (219)
indefinitely (222)
subtle (230)

Directions: Divide into small groups. Assign each person in the group five different vocabulary words. Each person will use the graphic organizer below to create word webs for his/her five words. The web may be traced onto another sheet of paper and worked on from there.

synonyms: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	magazine cut-out, drawing, or symbol that shows what the word means:
word: _____	
definition in your own words: _____ _____ _____	word used in a sentence: _____ _____ _____

Name _____

Holes
Activity #18 • Critical Thinking/Writing
Use Before Reading

Attribute Web

Directions: Think about the characters from *Holes*. Which character is your favorite? Why? List the qualities of this character on the attribute web below. Then use details from the attribute web to write a descriptive paragraph about the character.

The diagram is an attribute web. In the center is a circle labeled "Character". Four lines radiate from this central circle to four rectangular boxes arranged in a square around it. The boxes are labeled "Acts" (top-left), "Feels" (top-right), "Looks" (bottom-left), and "Says" (bottom-right). Each box has a thick black border. Below each box is a list of four numbered lines for writing.

Acts

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Feels

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Character

Looks

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Says

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Name _____

Final Test: Quotations

Directions: Match the name of the character to the correct quotation. Some names may be used more than once.

A. Stanley
E. Zero

B. Stanley's father
F. X-Ray

C. Kate Barlow
G. Mr. Pendanski

D. Madame Zeroni
H. Mr. Sir

- _____ 1. "I learn from failure."
- _____ 2. "I sure hope you like to dig. 'Cause you'll be digging for a long time. It's a vast wasteland out there. You, and your children, and their children, can dig for the next hundred years and you'll never find it."
- _____ 3. "I want you to carry me up the mountain. I want to drink from the stream, and I want you to sing the song to me."
- _____ 4. "I'm going to help you turn your life around, but you're going to have to help, too. Can I count on your help?"
- _____ 5. "You're not in the Girl Scouts anymore."
- _____ 6. "Say, listen, if you find something else, give it to me, okay?"
- _____ 7. "We weren't always homeless; I remember a yellow room."
- _____ 8. "It's sort of a trade. The hole still gets dug, so what does it matter who digs it?"
- _____ 9. "Is your last name your first name backwards?"
- _____ 10. "I can make it so it would be very difficult for anyone to ever find a record of him. Like I said, though, no one will ever look. No one cares about Hector Zeroni."
- _____ 11. "Oh, Sam, my heart is breaking."

Name _____

Final Test: Multiple Choice

Directions: Write the letter for the BEST answer to each question.

- _____ 1. Stanley's family believes they have bad luck because
- A. Stanley's father doesn't have a good job.
 - B. Stanley's mother stopped working to raise Stanley.
 - C. Stanley's family has been cursed.
 - D. Stanley got in trouble with the law.
- _____ 2. Stanley is sent to Camp Green Lake because
- A. he wants to have fun
 - B. he is convicted of stealing
 - C. his parents are going out of town
 - D. he raised enough money to go to camp
- _____ 3. While Stanley is at Camp Green Lake
- A. he gets to swim in the lake
 - B. he is nicknamed "Armpit"
 - C. he eats breakfast at 5:30 a.m.
 - D. he digs a hole every day
- _____ 4. What is Stanley told to watch out for at camp?
- A. the Warden
 - B. rattlesnakes
 - C. yellow-spotted lizards
 - D. all of the above
- _____ 5. What does X-Ray tell Stanley to do with anything he finds?
- A. turn it in to the Warden
 - B. give it to X-Ray
 - C. keep it as a souvenir
 - D. ignore it
- _____ 6. What does Stanley find that the Warden will be interested in?
- A. a fossil
 - B. a shot gun shell
 - C. a photograph
 - D. a metal tube