



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

HOLES

By Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats, a boy innocent of the crime for which he was convicted, is sent to Camp Green Lake, a youth detention center in the middle of a desert. Every day the boys “build character” by digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. Stanley soon realizes that rather than building character, the warden forces the boys to dig holes because she is looking for something. *Holes* tells the story of boys who intimidate, lie, bully and eventually learn to care for each other as they struggle to survive.

Authority

- List two rules in effect at Camp Green Lake.
- Evaluate these rules using the intellectual tools you have learned. *Authority* text *Foundations of Democracy*, Grades 3–5, page 49. *Foundations of Democracy*, Middle School text, page 27.

Responsibility

- What are Stanley’s responsibilities in the story?
- What other values and interests are involved in carrying out these responsibilities?
- How do these values and interests compete with the responsibilities?

Justice

- Identify and describe an example of *distributive justice* in *Holes*.

We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution

- Connections to text
 1. Explain the constitutional principle of *private domain*. Describe an example of this principle in *Holes*.
 2. Discuss the events in *Holes* and how they relate to the concept of *due process* (Level 1, Lesson 20; Level 2, Lesson 27).

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Writing prompt

Planning

1. Think about what you want to write.
2. Reread the prompt to make sure you are writing about the topic.
3. Make notes. Use your prewriting skills, such as mapping or outlining.
4. Carefully read the five statements below the prompt.

Writing prompt

Holes is an example of a “story within a story.” There is the story of Stanley Yelnats and Group D at Camp Green Lake and the story of Miss Katherine Barlow and Sam the onion man who lived in Green Lake one hundred years earlier. Write to inform the reader of ways in which the two stories are connected to each other.

As you write your paper, remember to

- clearly explain the “connections” you find between the two stories;
- include specific facts, details, and examples of these connections;
- present your ideas in a clear and logical order, including an introduction, body, and conclusion; use a variety of words and well-constructed sentences;
- correct any errors in grammar, mechanics, and spelling.