



Holes

By Louis Sachar

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Holes By Louis Sachar

Winner of the Newbery Medal and the National Book Award! This #1 *New York Times* bestselling, modern classic in which boys are forced to dig holes day in and day out is now available with a splashy new look.

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

Includes a double bonus: an excerpt from *Small Steps*, the follow-up to *Holes*, as well as an excerpt from Louis Sachar's new middle-grade novel, *Fuzzy Mud*.

"A smart jigsaw puzzle of a novel." --*The New York Times*

**WINNER OF THE BOSTON GLOBE-HORN BOOK AWARD
A NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOK
SELECTED FOR NUMEROUS BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR AND ALA HONORS**

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Holes By Louis Sachar Bibliography

- Rank: #2562831 in Books
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- Number of items: 4
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- 233 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"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." Such is the reigning philosophy at Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention facility where there is no lake, and there are no happy campers. In place of what used to be "the largest lake in Texas" is now a dry, flat, sunburned wasteland, pocked with countless identical holes dug by boys improving their character. Stanley Yelnats, of palindromic name and ill-fated pedigree, has landed at Camp Green Lake because it seemed a better option than jail. No matter that his conviction was all a case of mistaken identity, the Yelnats family has become accustomed to a long history of bad luck, thanks to their "no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather!" Despite his innocence, Stanley is quickly enmeshed in the Camp Green Lake routine: rising before dawn to dig a hole five feet deep and five feet in diameter; learning how to get along with the *Lord of the Flies*-styled pack of boys in Group D; and fearing the warden, who paints her fingernails with rattlesnake venom. But when Stanley realizes that the boys may not just be digging to build character--that in fact the warden is seeking something specific--the plot gets as thick as the irony.

It's a strange story, but strangely compelling and lovely too. Louis Sachar uses poker-faced understatement to create a bizarre but believable landscape--a place where Major Major Major Major of *Catch-22* would feel right at home. But while there is humor and absurdity here, there is also a deep understanding of friendship and a searing compassion for society's underdogs. As Stanley unknowingly begins to fulfill his destiny--the dual plots coming together to reveal that fate has big plans in store--we can't help but cheer for the good guys, and all the Yelnats everywhere. (Ages 10 and older) --*Brangien Davis*

From Publishers Weekly

PW's starred review of the 1999 Newbery Medal winner described it as a "dazzling blend of social commentary, tall tale and magic realism." Ages 10-up. (May)
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From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-Stanley Yelnats IV has been wrongly accused of stealing a famous baseball player's valued sneakers and is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention home where the boys dig holes, five feet deep by five feet across, in the miserable Texas heat. It's just one more piece of bad luck that's befallen Stanley's family for generations as a result of the infamous curse of Madame Zeroni. Overweight Stanley, his hands bloodied from digging, figures that at the end of his sentence, he'll "...either be in great physical condition or else dead." Overcome by the useless work and his own feelings of futility, fellow inmate Zero runs away into the arid, desolate surroundings and Stanley, acting on impulse, embarks on a risky mission to save him. He unwittingly lays Madame Zeroni's curse to rest, finds buried treasure, survives yellow-spotted lizards, and gains wisdom and inner strength from the quirky turns of fate. In the almost mystical progress of their ascent of the rock edifice known as "Big Thumb," they discover their own invaluable worth and unwavering friendship. Each of the boys is painted as a distinct individual through Sachar's deftly chosen words. The author's ability to knit Stanley and Zero's compelling story in and out of a history of intriguing ancestors is captivating. Stanley's wit, integrity, faith, and wistful innocence will charm readers. A multitude of colorful characters coupled with the skillful braiding of ethnic folklore, American legend, and contemporary issues is a brilliant achievement. There is no question, kids will love *Holes*.

Alison Follos, North Country School, Lake Placid, NY

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Henry Major:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Holes book is readable by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the facts here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer regarding Holes content conveys prospect easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different by means of it. So , do you nonetheless thinking Holes is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

Judy Finley:

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James Snider:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book mainly book entitled Holes your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a book then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The Holes giving you a different experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful information for your better life in this particular era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Ronald Peyton:

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