

Sample Review:

Name: Book Mark

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Grade: 9th

Book Title: Holes

Author: Louis Sachar

Number of Pages: 233

Rating (On A Scale Of 1-5): 5/5

Character List:

- **Stanley Yelnats** – Stanley is a 14-year-old boy with bad luck who is wrongly accused of a crime he didn't commit. Instead of jail, Stanley is sent to Camp Green Lake, where he is forced to dig holes.
- **Zero** – A boy whom Stanley befriends at Camp Green Lake. Also known as Hector Zeroni, Zero is the great-great-great grandson of Madame Zeroni. He is the fastest digger at Camp Green Lake and is taught to read by Stanley.
- **Madame Zeroni** – Madame Zeroni cursed the whole Yelnats family with bad luck after Elya Yelnats, the great-great grandfather of Stanley Yelnats, failed to complete the task she'd assigned him.
- **The Warden** – The Warden is in charge of Camp Green Lake. She has the boys dig holes to look for the treasure buried by Kate Barlow and is the granddaughter of Trout Walker.
- **Kate Barlow** – Kate Barlow was a school teacher who fell in love with Sam "the onion man." After Sam was killed by the townspeople, Kate became the outlaw Kissin' Kate Barlow who eventually robbed Stanley Yelnats the first. She buried his money on the grounds that would become Camp Green Lake one hundred years later.

Review:

Meet Stanley: he's a criminal, but it's not his fault. He swears! Thanks to his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather, Stanley Yelnats is accused of stealing a pair of shoes donated to an orphanage and is sent to Camp Green Lake for his rehabilitation. But these boys don't do community service. They don't frolic in the lake – there is no lake! They dig holes, all day, every day. Each hole must be exactly five feet deep by five feet wide, and the only way to get out of digging is to find something that might interest The Warden. It doesn't take long for Stanley to catch on to The Warden's plan: he and his new friends aren't digging to build character, they're looking for treasure, buried one hundred years ago by the outlaw Kissin' Kate Barlow. When Zero, another "camp attendee," runs away into desert, Stanley embarks on a daring rescue mission, braving deadly yellow-spotted lizards and blistering heat to save him. Reunited on "God's Thumb," Zero joins Stanley in his quest to dig up the truth, discover his past, and clear his name.

Part mystery, part comedy, *Holes* is a tale about learning from the past, the road to self-discovery, and why exactly rattlesnake venom shouldn't be used as a nail polish ingredient. Author Louis Sachar takes readers for a ride with Stanley as together you'll uncover hidden truths, piece together revelations, and feel the heat of a sun so hot that you'll be reaching for your own water bottle. The only holes in Stanley's story are the ones he's digging into the ground – through flashbacks, Sachar reveals unexpected relationships that give meaning to everything from Stanley's friendship with Zero to The Warden's unrelenting drive to discover the treasure. While younger characters make this book a standout choice for middle school readers, there's something here for everyone: action, adventure, friendship, obstacles to overcome, and scary reptiles.