

HOLES by Louis Sachar

Lesson 1: Introduction to Holes

Our first lesson will begin with a **reflection** on the last three lessons; we will discuss what we enjoyed and learned from our work together on *War Horse* before we move onto our second book, *Holes*. We will begin our work on *Holes* by **sharing our thoughts** on the book and discussing what we found interesting about the story and how it is written. The students will then be supplied with some **information about the author and the context of the book**. Using this information, we will talk about how an author's history and the context of a book informs our reading of it. We will then think about **perspective** and how the **type of narration** influences the way a story is told and received.

Preparation required:

- Read *Holes*.
 - Think about what thoughts you have on the book and would like to share with the group.
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Homework:

How would the story be **different** if it were written from **Stanley's perspective**?

Lesson 2: Discussion of themes

In lesson two, we will move on to focussing on some of the **major themes** in the novel. We will use a combination of **class discussion** and **looking at extracts from the book** to gain a rich understanding and appreciation of *how* and *why* these themes are explored in the book. When looking at the selected extracts we will also practice our **close analysis skills** (i.e. unpicking the structure, language, and literary techniques used by the author).

Preparation required:

- Complete the homework task from Lesson 1.
 - Think about the following themes and how they are explored in the novel:
 - Friendship
 - Cruelty
 - Fate
 - Choice
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Homework:

'Chance is more important than choice in *Holes*.' Do you agree?

Lesson 3: Homework discussion and consolidation

Our final lesson will involve a **discussion of the homework** completed by the students (it is therefore *crucial* that they have completed this homework in advance of our lesson). We will **share our thoughts** with one another and look at **what we did well and how we can improve**. To finish, we will have a **debate** in which we discuss as a group some **essay-style questions** and think about how we would go about **writing a response**.

Preparation required:

- Complete the homework task from Lesson 2.
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Homework:

In *Holes*, there are **three stories tied together**: one about **Camp Green Lake**, one about **Stanley's great-great-grandfather** and the "curse" put on him by Madame Zeroni, and one about **Kissin' Kate Barlow**, the outlaw who robbed Stanley's great-grandfather.

How do these **three stories fit together** within the **larger story** of *Holes*?