

# Year Knowledge Organiser Summer Term

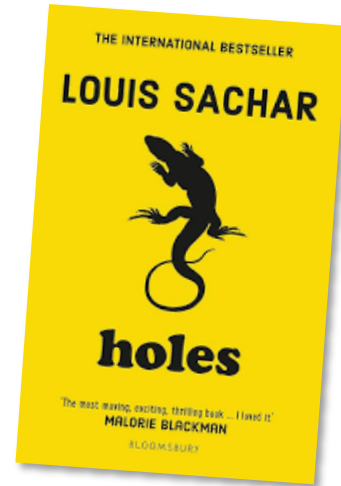
## Holes by Louis Sachar

### Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Curse	A spell or bad luck that affects a family over time
Drought	A long period without rain
Injustice	When someone is treated unfairly
Perseverance	Continuing even when something is difficult
Reputation	What other people think about you
Juvenile	A young person (child or teenager)
Rehabilitation	Helping someone improve their behaviour
Outlaw	A person who breaks the law and runs away
Flashback	A scene that shows something from the past
Punishment	Something done to someone for breaking rules
Loyalty	Being faithful to friends or family
Survival	Staying alive in difficult conditions

### SETTING Where the Story Takes Place

- The story is set mainly at Camp Green Lake, a harsh juvenile detention camp in a dry desert in Texas, USA.
- There is no real lake anymore – only a dry, cracked lakebed and extreme heat.
- The boys live in tents and dig holes every day in the “wasteland”.
- The story also moves between the past and present, including Green Lake from over 100 years ago.
- The setting is important because it shows hardship, punishment and survival.



### PLOT Main Events in the Story

- Stanley Yelnats is wrongly accused of stealing shoes and sent to Camp Green Lake.
- At the camp, boys are forced to dig one hole per day, supposedly to “build character”.
- Stanley discovers that the Warden is secretly searching for something valuable.
- He finds a small lipstick tube belonging to Kissin’ Kate Barlow.
- The story reveals a curse placed on Stanley’s family caused by his “no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing great-great-grandfather”.
- In the past, Kate Barlow becomes an outlaw after her life is ruined in Green Lake.

## CHARACTERS Main Characters

- Stanley Yelnats – The main character, unlucky at first but loyal, brave and determined.
- Hector “Zero” Zeroni – Quiet, clever and misunderstood; becomes Stanley’s closest friend.
- The Warden – Strict and dangerous leader of the camp who is obsessed with finding treasure.
- Mr Sir – A tough counsellor who enforces rules at the camp.
- Kissin’ Kate Barlow – A famous outlaw from the past who once worked in Green Lake.
- Elya Yelnats – Stanley’s ancestor whose actions lead to the family curse.

## EXTRA Facts

- The camp is called “Camp Green Lake” even though there is no lake.
- The number 18 appears in Stanley’s family history and is linked to the curse.
- Onions are important in the story and are said to help survive hardship.
- The story connects three timelines: Stanley’s present, Zero’s past, and Elya’s past.



## THEMES Ideas in the Book

- Justice and injustice – Stanley is punished even though he is innocent.
- Friendship and loyalty – Stanley and Zero help each other survive.
- Fate and destiny – The “curse” affects Stanley’s family for generations.
- Perseverance – The boys survive difficult conditions by not giving up.
- Redemption – Characters like Zero change their lives through bravery and kindness.



## POINT OF VIEW

- The story is told through a third-person narrator, but also includes past stories.
- Flashbacks explain the history of Camp Green Lake and Stanley’s family.
- Dialogue shows character relationships and emotions.
- Descriptions help the reader imagine the desert and harsh conditions.