# Holes

## Chapters 11-20

*by Louis Sachar*

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

**Practice words:** authority, condemned, engraved, hardened, paranoid, penetrating, presumably, recede, smug, writhed

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**PRE-READING ACTIVITY**


Vocabulary Preview ..... 2

Answer Key — Preview ..... 3 — **Caution:** share only if self-checking


**OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ**


Vocabulary in Context ..... 4

Answer Key — In Context ..... 5 — **Caution:** do not share with students


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**About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):**

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

**About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):**

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

**Vocabulary Sections for this Book:**

Section 1 · Chapters 1-10 · Stanley arrives at Camp Green Lake

**Section 2 · Chapters 11-20 · Stanley and the boys of Group D**

Section 3 · Chapters 21-30 · Zigzag, Zero, and the Warden's demands

Section 4 · Chapters 31-40 · Stanley and Zero in the wilderness

Section 5 · Chapters 41-50 · The return to Camp Green Lake

***Bold = this section.*** *Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.*

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# Vocabulary Preview

## Holes

**Chapters 11-20**

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**Name** _____ **Date** _____ **Period** _____

*Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.*

**1.** As the new manager, she finally had real **authority**.

A. power to give orders
B. duty to serve others
C. talent for speaking

**2.** The **condemned** prisoner ate his final meal in silence.

A. sentenced to death
B. held without a trial
C. moved to a new cell

**3.** The jeweler **engraved** a tiny rose on the gold ring.

A. carved into a hard surface
B. painted onto a flat surface
C. glued onto a flat surface

**4.** Years of living on the streets had **hardened** the young man.

A. made tough and unfeeling
B. made wise and patient
C. made restless and reckless

**5.** Without any real reason, he grew **paranoid** about his coworkers.

A. easily annoyed
B. needlessly distrustful
C. openly jealous

**6.** The detective fixed the suspect with a **penetrating** stare.

A. cold and distant
B. long and unblinking
C. sharp and piercing

**7.** The lights are off, so **presumably** everyone has gone home.

A. for certain
B. by chance
C. most likely

**8.** We watched the flood waters slowly **recede** from the street.

A. swirl in circles
B. draw back gradually
C. freeze in place

**9.** He wore a **smug** grin after winning the argument.

A. proud and excited
B. happy and relieved
C. self-satisfied and superior

**10.** The injured player **writhed** on the field, clutching his knee.

A. lay still and limp
B. twisted in pain
C. curled up tightly

**Reading Helpers**

*(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)*

**glared** — stared with fierce, angry intensity

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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### Holes

Chapters 11-20

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| # | KEY |
|---|---|
| 1 | A |
| 2 | A |
| 3 | A |
| 4 | A |
| 5 | B |
| 6 | C |
| 7 | C |
| 8 | B |
| 9 | C |
| 10 | B |

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# Vocabulary in Context

## Holes

### Chapters 11–20

by Louis Sachar

**Name** _____ **Date** _____ **Period** _____ **Score** _____ / 10

*Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.*

**1** *"'Just what do you think you're doing?' asks Squid, as he slams his hands into Derrick Dunne's smug face."*

As it is used in the excerpt, the word 'smug' most nearly suggests that Derrick Dunne's expression is...

A. angry and bitter
B. pleased and superior
C. nervous and afraid

**2** *"He looked again at the design engraved into the flat bottom of the tube."*

Because the design was engraved into the tube, it can reasonably be inferred that...

A. the tube was marked on purpose
B. Stanley made the marks himself
C. the marks formed on their own

**3** *"And the next time I tell you to do something, I expect you to do it without questioning my authority."*

Which statement about the Warden is best supported by her words to Mr. Pendanski?

A. She is making a polite request.
B. She demands to be obeyed.
C. She is asking for advice.

**4** *"He wondered if Zigzag was just being paranoid."*

Stanley's thought that Zigzag was 'just being paranoid' most strongly suggests that...

A. he has seen the cameras himself
B. he is lying to seem important
C. his fear of the cameras may be false

**5** *"Besides, the shovels were locked up at night, presumably so they couldn't be used as weapons."*

The word 'presumably' shows that the reason the shovels were locked up at night is...

A. a rule someone explained
B. a fact Stanley was told
C. a guess, not a known fact

**6** *"Zero stared at him with penetrating eyes."*

Zero's 'penetrating eyes' most strongly suggest that his gaze had...

A. an intense, searching look
B. a tired, bored look
C. a quick, nervous look

**7** *"His muscles and hands weren't the only parts of his body that had toughened over the past several weeks. His heart had hardened as well."*

In context, saying that Stanley's heart had 'hardened' emphasizes that he has become...

A. more relaxed and easygoing
B. stronger and braver than before
C. colder and less caring

**8** *"Stanley wondered if this was how a condemned man felt on his way to the electric chair, appreciating all of the good things in life for the last time."*

According to the comparison Stanley makes, a 'condemned man' is someone who is...

A. about to be put to death
B. tired after hard work
C. lost and far from home

**9** *"For a second, Mr. Sir's pain seemed to recede."*

Which statement about Mr. Sir's pain is best supported by the text?

A. It disappeared and did not return.
B. It eased only for a moment.
C. It slowly spread through his body.

**10** *"His body writhed in agony."*

Which statement is best supported by the words 'His body writhed in agony'?

A. He twisted and turned about.
B. He lay frozen and still.
C. He curled up tightly.

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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

**Holes**

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| # | KEY | NOTE |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | B | |
| 2 | A | |
| 3 | B | |
| 4 | C | Event comprehension. Stanley finds no camera in the shower, so Zigzag's fear looks exaggerated. |
| 5 | C | |
| 6 | A | |
| 7 | C | Character comprehension. The body's literal toughening sets up the figurative 'hardened' heart – Stanley has just refused to help Zero. |
| 8 | A | |
| 9 | B | Event comprehension. The relief is brief – Mr. Sir's pain returns worse moments later. |
| 10 | A | |

**Teacher Context: Chapters 11–20**

Stanley is wrongly blamed for Magnet's theft of Mr. Sir's sunflower seeds, and Zero begins secretly helping Stanley dig in exchange for reading lessons. Flashbacks reveal that Katherine Barlow's romance with Sam the onion man led to her transformation into outlaw Kissin' Kate Barlow, and that Elya Yelnats broke his promise to Madame Zeroni, beginning the family curse. Section ends before the conflict between Zero and the counselors reaches its breaking point.

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