Holes

Chapters 41-50

by Louis Sachar

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: etched, hysterical, incarcerated, inexplicable, jurisdiction, precarious, subtle, summoned, suppress, tedious

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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

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

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

1. That frightening day is **etched** in my memory.

A. fixed permanently in the mind
B. remembered only in pieces
C. told as a favorite story

2. The crowd grew **hysterical** as the storm closed in.

A. loudly amused and laughing
B. tense but still calm
C. wildly out of control

3. The thief was **incarcerated** for ten years after the trial.

A. put in prison
B. made to pay a fine
C. kept under house arrest

4. Her **inexplicable** absence from class surprised all of us.

A. planned far in advance
B. impossible to explain
C. lasting only a moment

5. The local police had no **jurisdiction** across the state border.

A. experience with the case
B. official legal authority
C. officers stationed nearby

6. The hikers crossed a **precarious** bridge high above the river.

A. packed with travelers
B. long and very narrow
C. dangerously unstable

7. There was a **subtle** change in the painting's color.

A. hard to notice
B. odd and unusual
C. slow and gradual

8. She **summoned** all her courage and raised her hand to speak.

A. pushed down inside
B. slowly used up
C. called up from within

9. He tried to **suppress** a laugh during the quiet ceremony.

A. to hide quietly
B. to hold back
C. to share openly

10. We spent a **tedious** afternoon filling out forms.

A. long and boring
B. quiet and calm
C. busy and rushed

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

sundial — a device that tells time by the shadow the sun casts on a marked surface
stubborn mouths — mouths reluctant to drink; each boy insists that the other drink instead

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Holes

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

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Vocabulary in Context

Holes

Chapters 41–50

by Louis Sachar

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

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

1 *"Instead he tried to recapture the feelings he'd had the night before, the inexplicable feeling of happiness, the sense of destiny."*

As it is used in 'the inexplicable feeling of happiness,' the word 'inexplicable' most nearly suggests that Stanley's happiness…

A. could not be explained
B. would not last long
C. had been well earned

2 *"He took a breath, summoned his courage, and continued."*

The passage most strongly suggests that, when Stanley 'summoned his courage,' he…

A. called up bravery from within
B. lost his nerve and froze
C. waited for Zero to lead

3 *"As his tunnel grew deeper and wider, and more precarious, Stanley was able to feel latches on one end of the box, and then a leather handle."*

According to the passage, as Stanley's tunnel grew deeper and wider, it also became…

A. cooler and more roomy
B. more likely to collapse
C. easier and faster to dig

4 *"He glanced downward and had to force himself to suppress a scream."*

Which detail from the passage best supports the idea that Stanley was struggling to control his fear?

A. He climbed out of the hole
B. He shouted to warn Zero
C. He held back a scream

5 *"He didn't want to die with the images of the Warden, Mr. Sir, and the lizards etched into his brain."*

In context, the word 'etched' emphasizes that the frightening images were…

A. carved deeply into his memory
B. sketched lightly on paper
C. told to Zero out loud

6 *"How do I know there aren't drugs or weapons in there? He stole a car, too! I've got witnesses! She was nearly hysterical."*

Which statement about the Warden is best supported by the passage?

A. She had lost her self-control
B. She was telling a simple lie
C. She was making a careful case

7 *"'He is no longer under your jurisdiction,' said Stanley's lawyer."*

It can reasonably be inferred that, by saying Zero is 'no longer under your jurisdiction,' Stanley's lawyer means the Warden…

A. may keep Zero's suitcase
B. must pay for Zero's release
C. has no legal authority over Zero

8 *"He was obviously incarcerated for a reason."*

According to the passage, the Attorney General assumes that Zero…

A. had chosen to stay at the camp
B. had been imprisoned for a reason
C. had been released long ago

9 *"The reader probably still has some questions, but unfortunately, from here on in, the answers tend to be long and tedious."*

The passage most strongly suggests that the narrator skips the rest of the answers because they would be…

A. hard for adults to follow
B. dull and tiresome to read
C. upsetting and sad to read

10 *"But those changes are subtle and hard to measure."*

It can reasonably be inferred that the narrator calls the changes in Stanley 'subtle and hard to measure' because…

A. no one wanted to measure them
B. Stanley hardly changed at all
C. real growth can be hard to notice

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	A	
3	B	
4	C	
5	A	Tests the figurative sense of 'etched' - images fixed in the mind as if carved, not a literal carving.
6	A	Here 'hysterical' means wildly out of control, not its casual sense of 'very funny.'
7	C	Event comprehension. The line caps the standoff over who has legal authority to hold or release Zero.
8	B	Event comprehension. Set in the dispute over Zero's missing records and whether the state can keep holding him.
9	B	
10	C	Theme comprehension. Rejecting 'he hardly changed' depends on seeing how much Stanley has grown across the book.

Teacher Context: Chapters 41-50

Returning at night, Stanley and Zero unearth a suitcase at the spot where Stanley first found the K.B. tube; the Warden tries to seize it, but yellow-spotted lizards cover the boys without biting, and a lawyer and the Attorney General arrive to free Stanley. The suitcase holds the Yelnats family treasure as well as Zero’s missing mother’s belongings, and the Warden’s scheme is exposed and the camp shut down. Section runs to the end of the novel.

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