



# Holes Knowledge Organiser

Key genre terms and vocabulary that you will need to know to understand and include in your responses:

- ⇒ Character
- ⇒ Chapter
- ⇒ Setting
- ⇒ Atmosphere
- ⇒ Writer
- ⇒ Setting
- ⇒ Reader

## Context

*Context is the historical and social things that were happening when the text was written- it helps us to understand the text and the characters.*

Louis Sachar was born in East Meadow, New York in 1954. His family moved to Southern California when he was nine and he attended college at the University of California at Berkeley. During his last year of college he received school credit for working at Hillside Elementary School, an experience that inspired him to write his first children's book, *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*. the bar exam, became a lawyer.

*Holes* is Sachar's most successful book and has won numerous awards, Although Sachar is never completely sure where the inspiration for his books comes from, his knowledge of the unbearably hot Texas summers did serve to set the scene for Camp Green Lake. Many of Sachar's books, including *Holes*, are about children who don't fit in or who have low self-esteem. Like these other books, the main character in *Holes* gains self-confidence by the end of the book and makes some friends in the process.

**P** Point- answer the question in one sentence

**E** Evidence- back it up with a quote

**A1** Analysis 1- This is where you infer something from the quote in your words

**A2** Analysis 2- This is where you add detail

**Z**— Look at one word in closer detail

**R**- How will this make the reader think/feel

**P**

**E**

**A1**

**A2**

**Z**

**R**

**Key characters:** The novel's protagonist, **Stanley** is an overweight kid with a lot of bad luck. He is convicted of a crime he did not commit and is sent to the Camp Green Lake juvenile detention center. Non-violent and generally kind, Stanley has a difficult time in school and at the camp. Through his experience at the hellish Camp Green Lake he becomes physically stronger and more self-confident. He befriends Zero, another boy at the camp and through this friendship he succeeds in eradicating his family curse. **Zero** IS another camper at Camp Green Lake who becomes friends with Stanley. Zero is the best digger and generally thought to be stupid by the counselors and the other boys. In truth, Zero is very smart, although he has never been taught how to read. Zero is the great-great-great-grandson of Madame Zeroni, the woman who put a curse on Stanley's family. Zero has suffered many hardships in his life, even more than Stanley, but he never completely desponds and always shows incredible strength and willpower. **The Warden** is the ultimate symbol of cruel authority at Camp Green Lake. She rewards only those who do what she wants and uses her power to threaten everyone else. She has hidden cameras that she uses to spy on the boys and nail polish with rattlesnake venom that she will use to scratch those who displease her. She is a descendent of Charles and Linda Walker and is making the boys dig holes in an attempt to dig up Kate Barlow's treasure. **Kate Barlow** is the school-teacher-turned-outlaw who robbed Stanley's great- grandfather. She lived on Green Lake one hundred and ten years ago, when there was still water in it. While intelligent and kind by nature, the murder of her beloved Sam turns Kate into a violent outlaw who lives on the wrong side of the law.