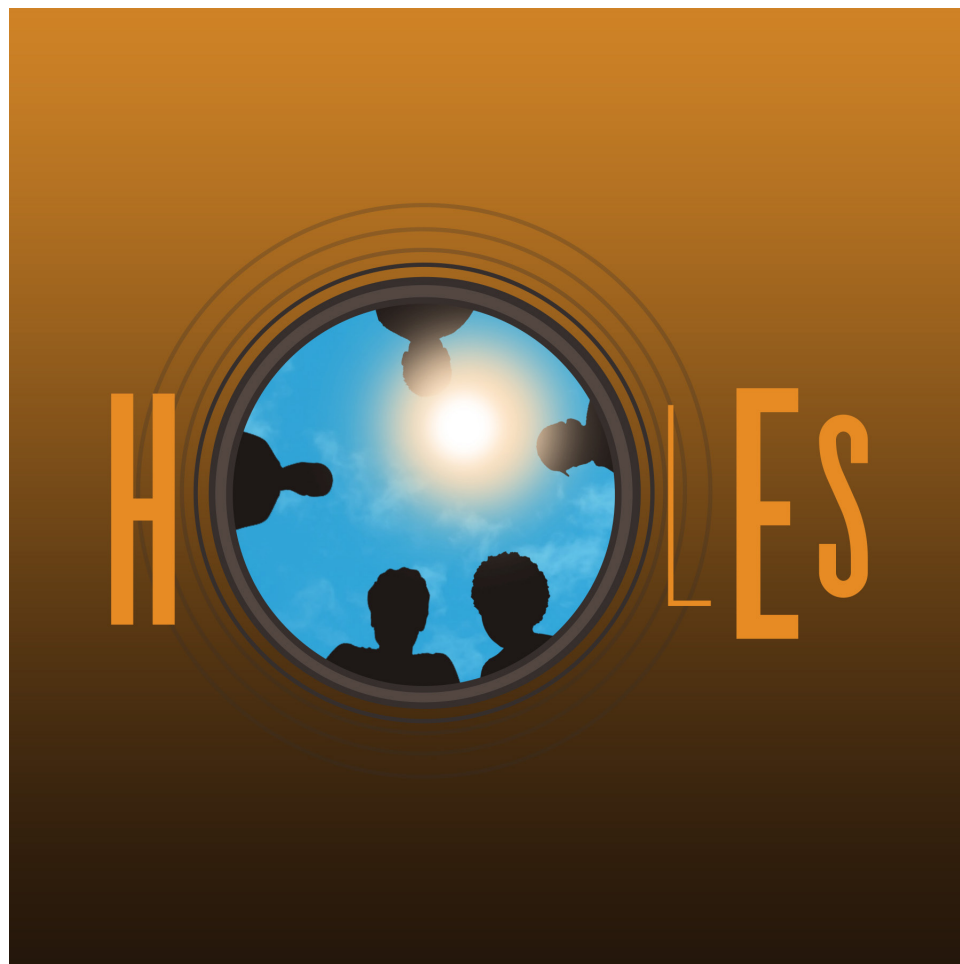


PLAY GUIDE



Holes

By Louis Sachar

Presented on the LCT Main Stage: October 30 - November 15, 2019



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Major Contributors:



Dear Educator -

Lexington Children's Theatre is proud to be producing our 81st season of plays for young people and their families. As an organization that values the arts and education, we have created this Play Guide for teachers to utilize in conjunction with seeing a play at LCT.

Our Play Guides are designed to be a valuable tool in two ways: helping you prepare your students for the enriching performance given by LCT's performers, as well as serving as an educational tool for extending the production experience back into your classroom.

We designed each activity to assist in achieving the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS), including the National Core Arts Standards for Theatre. Teachers have important voices at LCT, and we rely heavily on your input. If you have comments or suggestions about our Play Guides, show selections, or any of our programming, your thoughts are greatly appreciated. Please email Jeremy Kisling, our Associate Artistic Director in Charge of Education, at jkisling@lctonstage.org.

Please use the Teacher Response form following a performance. We are thrilled that you rely on LCT to provide your students a quality theatrical experience, and we hope this resource helps you in your classroom.

-LCT's Education Department

The mission of our education programming



The mission of Lexington Children's Theatre's Education Department is to **provide students of all ages with the means to actively explore the beauty, diversity, complexity, and challenges of the world around them through the dramatic process.** We strive for young people to develop their own creative voice, their imagination, and their understanding of drama and its role in

Your role in the play

You may wish to have a discussion with your class about your upcoming LCT experience and their role as audience members. Remind your students that theatre can only exist with an audience. Your students' energy and response directly affects the actors onstage. The quality of the performance depends as much on the audience as it does on each of the theatre professionals behind the scenes and on stage.

Young audiences should know that watching live theatre is not like watching more familiar forms of entertainment; they cannot pause or rewind us like a DVD, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, nor can they turn up the volume to hear us if someone else is talking. Your students are encouraged to listen and watch the play intently, so that they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate.

At the end of the play, applause is an opportunity for your students to thank the actors, while the actors are thanking you for the role you played as an audience.



Meet the Cast - *Holes*

GARRETT BRADY ADDAMS (*Zero*) is a sixth grader at Connexus Home School who hopes to devote more time to honing his acting skills. Garrett enjoys traveling the world and playing baseball. He recently attended LCT summer theatre school where he played the role of Dipper in *Gravity Falls 2*.

ETHAN BARBOUR (*Twitch/Jesse*) is an eighth grader at Montessori Middle School of Kentucky. This is his first Discovery Production and he would like to thank the director and LCT for the opportunity. Ethan loves Y-Chapter activities, creative writing, his puppies, and video games. He remains undecided about his future career plans.

COOPER BARTLETT (*Elya/Townsperson*) is an eighth grader at West Jessamine Middle. Favorite productions include *Newsies - The Lex*, *The Big Meal - Studio Players*, *Disney's High School Musical Jr.*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Disney's Beauty and The Beast*, and *Peter Pan Jr.* at LCT. When not performing, Cooper is watching superhero movies or selling on eBay.

RHONDA BELL (*Madame Zeroni/Zero's Mother*) Rhonda, a Nashville native, is excited to make her LCT Main Stage debut! She holds an MA in Theatre from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a BA from Berea College. Although she is a stage manager by trade, Rhonda enjoys teaching and spending time with young people.

LIAM CASEY (*Sheriff/Police Officer*) Liam is a firmware product engineer at Lexmark. He previously appeared in six productions at LCT and another at Stage Right Acting- the start of his second childhood. He appeared most recently as Drake the Butler and a Hoovervillian in LCT's *Annie*. Eight plays! Who'd a thunk it?!

XANDER CAIN DICKERSON (*Myra's Father/Attorney General of Texas*) Xander is a sixteen-year-old sophomore at Lafayette High School. This is his first appearance in an LCT production. He is also active in 4H Shooting Sports where he serves as a teen coach. He plans to have a career as a military officer.

MONTE FREEMAN (*Sam*) Monte is an actor who comes to LCT to participate very often! He enjoys working with young people and watching them grow; he can't wait to bring another show to life for you today.

CATHERINE GAFFNEY (*The Warden*) is thrilled to make her LCT debut. In the past year, she appeared in *The Cake* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (AthensWest), as well as *Our Town* and *The Lady With All the Answers* (Cortland Repertory). She is forever thankful for her writer/professor husband, Sean.

DREW GOINS (*Stanley Yelnats I*) Drew is a seventh grader at LCA. He has performed with LCT in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (Pig Pen) and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Ollie Herdman). Drew enjoys anime and *Corgis*. He wants to be a screenwriter.

ASLYN GOODWIN (*Sarah/Townsperson*) Aslyn is a sophomore at Lafayette. She performed in two other LCT productions, *Frankenstein* (Locke), and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Shirley). Aslyn enjoys singing and spending time with her friends. She would like to be a theatre or math teacher when she is older.

JONATHAN HARPER (*Trout Walker/Igor Barkov*) Jonathan is a homeschooled junior. He is very excited to perform in his fourth LCT show. Jonathan's hobbies include theatre and that's it. When Jonathan is not doing theatre, you can find him doing school or work. Jonathan thanks the cast and directors for this experience.

MAKENNA LAMBERT (*Mrs. Collingwood/Ms. Morengo*) Makenna is a senior at Great Crossing High School; this is her third show with LCT. She recently performed with her school in *Mamma Mia* in the dance ensemble and in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* as the Unicorn. Makenna would like to thank her family for their support.

LONDON LEPLEY (*Myra/Linda*) Landon is a freshman at Lafayette High School in the SCAPA program. This is her sixth production with LCT, the most recent of which was this year's Summer Family Musical, *Annie*. She enjoys dance and playing the guitar. Landon hopes you enjoy the show!

ADAM LUCKEY (*Mr. Sir*) Adam is an actor, director, and educator living in Lexington. Previous LCT credits include *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, *Witness*, *Tales of Edgar Allan Poe*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and *Cat in the Hat* among many others! Versatility is his middle name.

MARLEY M. MCCLLOUD (*Townsperson*) Marley McCloud is a sophomore at Lafayette High School. This is her first acting role at LCT but she worked backstage for many productions in the past. She wants to work in the Cyber Security field when she's old enough.

COURTNEY JOY MILLER (*Kate Barlow*) Courtney Joy recently earned her B.A. in Acting & Directing from The University of North Dakota. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with LCT not only on stage, but off stage as a year long education intern. When she's not at the theatre, Courtney Joy listens to podcasts and gardens!

LIONEL MORTON II (*ZigZag*) Lionel has performed with LCT for three years. He appeared in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (Linus), *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* (James), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Ollie), and *Peter Pan Jr.* (Tootles). He enjoys acting, singing, and walking his dog. Lionel is excited to work with the best of the best.

SAMUEL MORTON (*X-Ray*) Samuel discovered his love for acting while playing Mufasa in Dixie Elementary's fifth grade musical production of *Disney's The Lion King Jr.* Samuel is excited to be a part of his fifth LCT production. In his free time, he enjoys drawing, singing and playing video games.

ETHAN NORRIS (*Stanley*) is a fourteen-year-old freshman at Frederick Douglass HS. Ethan graduated from SCAPA as a Drama major. He performed with LCT in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* Ethan runs on the cross-country team and wants to go into the medical field when he grows up.

LUCA QUINIO (*Magnet*) Luca is a thirteen-year-old eighth grade student at EIH Middle School. He performed with LCT in *Charlotte's Web* as the Photographer. He loves acting, drawing, and reading during his free time. He wants to own a production company with his siblings when he grows up.

CHARLIE STEPHENSON (*Mr. Pendanski*) Charlie is an eleventh grade SCAPA Theatre major at Lafayette High school. This is Charlie's thirteenth show with LCT. His most recent productions include *Charlotte's Web* (Lurvy), *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (Charlie Brown), and *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* (Grasshopper). Charlie is a GSA theatre graduate of 2019.

JETT PATRICK VANDERHORST (*Squid/Townsperson*) Jett is an eighth grader at Seton Catholic. He recently performed in *Disney's High School Musical Jr.*, *Into the Woods*, and *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*. Jett loves playing tennis and guitar! He wants to be an actor or a surgeon in the future. He also enjoys hanging with friends and traveling.

JAYDEN A. YOUNG (*Armpit*) is a ninth grader at Lafayette High. He is in the SCAPA program, majoring in Drama. This is Jayden's third performance at LCT. He appeared in *The Watsons go to Birmingham-1963* and *The Ghosts of Pineville*. Jayden enjoys writing scripts, making movies, and hopes to major in film.

What to know – before the show!

Play Synopsis

Found guilty for a crime he didn't commit, Stanley is sentenced to 18 months at Camp Green Lake, a correction facility for juvenile delinquents. There is no water at Camp Green Lake, just lots of barren, dry, hot land in the middle of Texas. Stanley doesn't blame himself, he blames the curse placed on his family on account of his "no good, pig stealin' great-great great grandfather."

The story goes that Stanley's great-great great grandfather Elya promises a fortune teller by the name of Madame Zeroni a ride up the mountain for helping him win his true love's hand in marriage. But once Elya realizes that Myra is not the girl for him, he forgets his promise and a curse is placed on the Yelnats descendents.

At Camp Green Lake, Stanley meets the boys of Tent D: X-Ray, Armpit, Magnet, ZigZag, and Zero. He also meets Mr. Pendanski, the counselor, Mr. Sir, the disciplinarian, and the Warden, a mysterious lady who has the boys do one task all day long. The boys dig holes: 5 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep. The boys are told they're digging holes to "build character," and if they find anything "interesting" to report it immediately. When Stanley finds a fish fossil it is ignored. But then one day, Stanley finds a gold metal tube and X-ray demands the tube so he can get the reward: the day off from digging.

The initials on the tube stand for Katherine Barlow, known as the famous outlaw Kissin' Kate Barlow. Kate was once the school teacher of Green Lake, but she kissed a African American man by the name of Sam, a bright, kind onion picker. The Sheriff and Trout Walker, a prominent town citizen who has a crush on Kate, kill Sam and unleash Kate's rebellious side. Kate and her gang robbed Stanley Yelnats the First, revitalizing the curse.

After finding the metal tube, Stanley becomes suspicious of what is going on at Camp Green Lake. Stanley befriends Zero, discovers he cannot read, and agrees to give him reading lessons in exchange for Zero doing some of Stanley's digging. The boys do not think it is fair for Stanley to not have to dig his holes and Zig-Zag and Stanley get into a fight. Mr. Sir, Pendanski, and the Warden come to find out what is going on. Mr. Sir calls Zero stupid and he runs away from camp, and Stanley takes the water truck and escapes to find his friend.

As Stanley searches the desert for Zero, stories from the past interweave, giving Stanley clues to the mystery of Camp Green Lake. Stanley finds Zero and they return quietly to camp. They dig in Stanley's hole and find a suitcase containing treasure. After a standoff with the Warden, a host of poisonous lizards, and Ms. Morengo, Stanley's lawyer, Stanley and Zero are released.



What to know - before the show!

Palindromes

Did you know that Stanley Yelnats is a palindrome? A word, phrase, or sentence that reads the same forwards or backwards is called a palindrome. How many words can you think of that are palindromes? Start with three and four letter words such as “wow” and “noon.” Can you write an entire palindrome sentence?

[RF.4.3; RF.4.4]

Nature

Nature plays a very important role in *Holes*. Describe the environmental conditions at Camp Green Lake. Where are the hottest places on earth? The driest? What area has the most rainfall per year? Consider how climate changes influence other aspects of living, such as economic prospects, housing, clothing, plant life, etc. What are the long-term effects of severe climate conditions such as droughts or floods?

[SC:5-ESS3.C; SC:3-ESS2.D]

Your Family Tree

An interesting part of the story of *Holes* is the connection it makes to Stanley’s ancestors. In the beginning, he knows a little about his family’s past, but by the end Stanley has discovered a whole lot more about his history. Interview the oldest relative you can find. This may be your great-grandfather, your grandmother, an aunt or uncle, or any other relative you are able to interview. Ask them the following questions.

1. What is your full name?
2. Who is your oldest living relative?
3. What country or countries did your ancestors come from?
4. Can you share an interesting story that was told to you by an elderly relative?
5. What kinds of jobs did your ancestors have?
6. What family member has had the greatest impact on your life and why?



[SS.4.2.20; SS.5.2.16; W.5.7]

What to know - before the show!

Contextual Article

Louis Sachar

Louis Sachar was born in East Meadow, New York to Robert and Ruth (Raymin) Sachar, and moved to Tustin, California when he was nine. He grew up in “a happy, normal suburban family,” and though he enjoyed school, he did not become interested in reading and writing until high school, when he was inspired by the work of J. D. Salinger and Kurt Vonnegut.

After graduating from high school, Sachar attended Antioch College for a semester before transferring to University of California, Berkeley, during which time he began working at an elementary school to earn college credit. Sachar later recalled, “I thought it over and decided it was a pretty good deal. College credits, no homework, no term papers, no tests, all I had to do was help out in a second/third grade class at Hillside Elementary School. Besides helping out in a classroom, I also became the Noontime Supervisor, or “Louis the Yard Teacher” as I was known to the kids. It became my favorite college class, and a life changing experience.”

Sachar graduated from UC Berkeley in 1976 with a degree in Economics, and began working on *Sideways Stories From Wayside School*, a children’s book set at an elementary school with supernatural elements. Sachar has said that he draws very little from personal experience, explaining that “....my personal experiences are kind of boring. I have to make up what I put in my books.”

Sachar wrote *Sideways Stories* at night over the course of nine months, during which he worked during the day in a Connecticut sweater warehouse. After being fired from the warehouse, Sachar decided to go to law school, around which time *Sideways Stories From Wayside School* was accepted for publication. The book was released in 1978; though it was not widely distributed and subsequently did not sell very well, Sachar began to accumulate a fan base among young readers. By 1989, his books were selling well enough that Sachar was able to begin writing full-time.

In 1998, Sachar published what has become his best-known book, *Holes*. A darker and scarier work than his previous books, *Holes* sold more than five million copies and won several awards, including the prestigious Newbery Medal. When *Holes* was made into a film in 2003, Sachar wrote the screenplay and made a cameo appearance as Mr. Collingwood.

Though Sachar followed *Holes* with four new installments in the *Marvin Redpost* book series in 1999 and 2000, and a short *Holes* spin-off, *Stanley Yelnats’ Survival Guide to Camp Green Lake*, in 2003, the author did not publish another full-length novel in the eight years following *Holes*. He admitted in 2006 that “being caught up in the whirlwind of Hollywood” during the making of the film *Holes* was a distraction that made it hard to get back into the mindset of writing. During a particularly frustrating part of the film’s production, Sachar said he worked for a few weeks on “a follow-up novel that had [*Holes* characters] X-Ray complaining to Armpit about Hollywood ripping off their story.” In 2006, he released the full-length novel *Small Steps*, which features some of the characters from *Holes*.

When asked in 2006 about his plans for the future, Sachar replied, “I doubt I will write any more about the *Holes* characters....I don’t have any current plans to [write more *Wayside School* stories], but I imagine I will someday.”

Article source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Sachar

How to grow - after the show!

Figure It Out!

Try answering these questions based on information found in *Holes*.

1. The holes that the boys dig are 5 feet wide and 5 feet tall. Use geometry to help you figure out the volume of a hole that size (hint: use the formula to find the volume of a cylinder).
2. Latvia is approximately 24,938 square miles. What state in the U.S. is about the same size?
3. If Green Lake is 100 miles away from water in any direction, what is the diameter of Green Lake? Circumference?

M.5.MD.5; M.4.MD.2

What If...

In *Holes*, key events in the past affect the lives of characters in the present - Stanley believes he is cursed because of the choices made by his great-great great grandfather Elya. But how would the outcome of the story change if certain events were altered? Chose one of the options below and write a short scene exploring a different reality. Have other students act out the scene for the class.

1. Elya Yelnats kept his promise to Madame Zeroni and carried her up the mountain - what would Madame Zeroni do next?
2. Zero did not steal (or was not caught stealing) a pair of shoes from the mall. Where might he end up instead of Camp Green Lake?
3. After Stanley and Hector escape Camp Green Lake, what would happen if they did not return to dig the last hole?

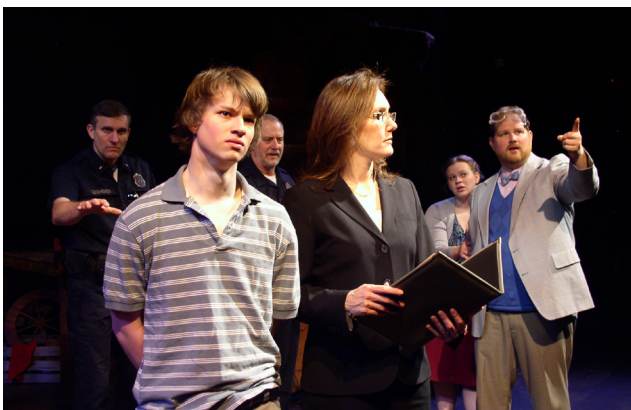
SS.4.2.20; W.4.3; TH:Pr6.1.4

Parallel Lives

Stanley thought his family was cursed because of a story that his family told each other over and over. Zero did not have a permanent home and lived by himself in a homeless shelter. They are both connected and different in many ways.

Think about these two protagonists and their parallels. What other characters in the play parallel each other? What about storylines?

TH:Re8.1.4b; TH:Re9.1.5c; RL.4.6



How to grow - after the show!

Open Response Question

There are six production elements in theatre. Choose one of the following elements and describe how the designers for *Holes* use the element to create the world of the play. Discuss how the designer's choices help define the characters and setting of the play.

Production Elements

1. Scenery
2. Costumes
3. Lights
4. Props
5. Sound
6. Make-up/Hair

Glossary

Here is a list of some of the terms used in the theatre to help your students learn more about theatre and its terms.

Director - the person who oversees the entire artistic process of staging a production

Actor - a person who performs a role or character

Character - a person in a play or story; the part played by an actor

Playwright - author of a play

Costume - any clothing an actor wears onstage for a performance

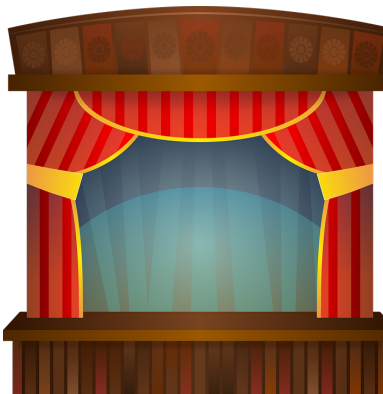
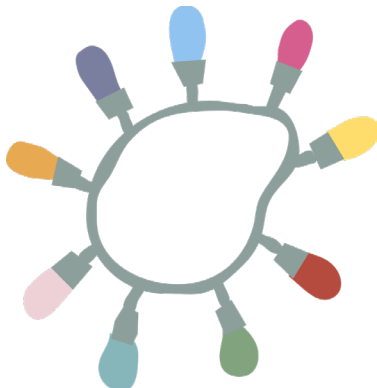
Dialogue - the lines of the play spoken by the actors in character

Gesture - an expressive movement of the body, face, or limbs

Plot - the sequence of events; the structure of a play, including the exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement

Role - a part an actor portrays in a play that is written by the playwright

SL.4.6; TH:Re7.1.4; TH:Re9.1.5b



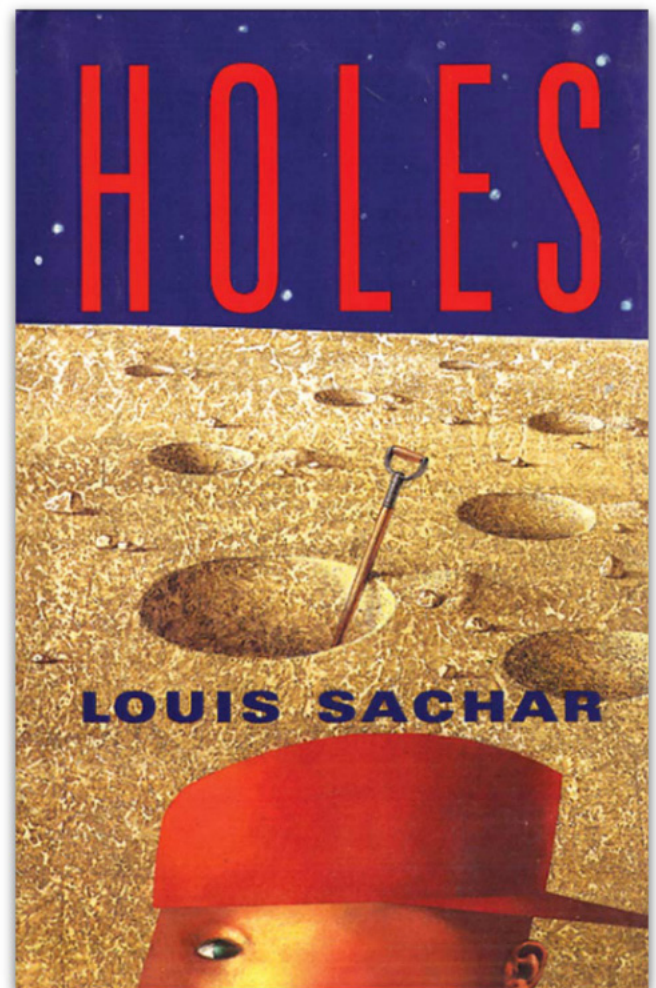
How to grow - after the show!

Open Response Question Scoring

- 4 The response demonstrates consistent use and knowledge of the specific element and relates it to the show with a clear positive/negative attribute. The response demonstrates effective communication skills and provides insightful use of supporting examples and relevant details from the show.
- 3 The response exhibits a mediocre understanding of a specific scenic element and how it affects the story. The response demonstrates some knowledge of the specific element and relates it to the show with a clear positive/negative attribute. The response demonstrates effective communication skills, with use of supporting examples and relevant details from the show.
- 2 The response exhibits a limited understanding of a specific scenic element and how it affects the story. The response demonstrates little knowledge and insight into how the specific element relates to the show and uses a vague positive/negative attribute to support it. The response may include errors or misconceptions. The response communicates on a basic level, with limited use of supporting examples and relevant details from the show.
- 1 The response is not able to identify correctly any of the scenic elements and how it affects the story. The response demonstrates little to no knowledge and insight into how the specific element relates to the show and unclear or no positive/negative attributes to support it. The response includes errors or misconceptions. The response demonstrates ineffective communication skills with little or no use of supporting examples and relevant details from the show.

Answers to "Figure It Out" Math Section:

1. The formula for finding the volume of a cylinder is $v = \pi r^2 d$ which makes the equation we need to solve: $\pi(2.5^2)(5)$. The answer is 98.175.
2. West Virginia is the answer, coming in at 24,231 square miles.
3. If 100 miles is the radius, then the diameter would be 2 multiplied by the radius ($d = 2r$), which would make it 200 miles. The formula for finding the circumference of a circle is: $2\pi r$ making the circumference of Green Lake 628.319 miles.



How to grow - after the show!

What to Read Next

***Stanley Yelnats' Survival Guide to Camp Green Lake: A Holes companion book* by Louis Sachar.** Should you ever find yourself at Camp Green Lake — or somewhere similar — this is the guide for you. Stanley (Caveman, to some of you) offers anecdotes and advice to help make your stay a more pleasant one.

***Small Steps* by Louis Sachar:** Two years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying to turn his life around. But it's hard when you have a record, and everyone expects the worst from you.

***Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli:** He came into this world named Jeffrey Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend.

***Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko:** Moose's family moves to Alcatraz Island so his father can work as a guard and his sister Natalie can attend a special school in San Francisco. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen:** Stranded in the Canadian wilderness with only the clothes on his back and a hatchet, Brian Robeson must put his bitter thoughts of his parents' divorce behind and deal with trying to stay alive.

LCT teaches in YOUR school!

Would you like to see some of these play guide activities modeled in your classroom?

Book a workshop for your class with one of LCT's teaching artists! In our pre-show workshops, our teaching artists will engage students in acting skills and themes from the play through drama activities. In our post-show workshops, students will extend their play-going experience by strengthening their personal connection to the play and deepening their understanding of the themes and characters.



Call us at 859-254-4546 x226 to book a pre or post-show workshop for your class!

To learn more about Lexington Children's Theatre and our programming for your school visit:
www.lctonstage.org/for-educators/in-school-experiences/