

Holes
Louis Sachar

Unit 1 (Chapters 1-12)

Preview

Book and Author

Have you ever been at the wrong place at the wrong time, and your life took a turn because of it? This is the beginning premise for *Holes*--the story of a boy who was in the wrong place at the wrong time and must pay for a crime he did not commit. Sometimes it is in these unfair situations that we learn about our friends, ourselves, and a little more of the meaning of life.

Louis Sachar is a young-adult fiction author and has written over twenty books for children and young adults. *Holes* won the Newbery Medal, which is the top award in America for children's fiction. If you enjoy reading *Holes*, you'll be happy to know that *Holes* is the first in a three-part series about the main character, Stanley Yelnats, which are all available on amazon.cn.

Literary Analysis: Flashback

Have you ever watched a movie or a TV show where a character goes back in his or her mind to an old memory or story they have been told and you --like a mind reader-- get to go with them? We call this a **flashback**, because we quickly move to a time before the main setting of the story. **Flashbacks** are pretty easy to identify in movies, because the director uses special techniques like softer lighting or younger characters to give the flashback the feel of a dream, or make it very different from the main part of the film.

Authors also use **flashbacks** as a way to weave in additional stories or memories a character might have in their past. But, since there is no visual clues to tell the reader they are moving into a **flashback** (like there is in film) the reader has to pay extra attention to realize when a **flashback** is happening.

In *Holes*, Sachar relies on **flashbacks** to tell the story. Pay close attention to when a **flashback** might be happening, and keep track of the characters who are in the **flashbacks** so you know when another one is starting.

Becoming Strong Readers: Character Lists



Sometimes books may only have one or two characters, and some books may have dozens or even over 100 characters. It is harder to keep track of characters in a book

than it is in a movie, since you have to create your own visual representation of what that character looks like.

Holes not only has a lot of characters, but some of those characters have more than one name that they are called throughout the book. A strong, active reader would realize that this is going to be a problem and start keeping a list of those characters and their names, and maybe a few notes on who they are in the novel. This can make it easier, since you won't have to keep flipping back in the book asking "Who is this character again?"

As you read, keep a list of the characters, their names, and a short description to quickly remind yourself who they are in the story. Keep your list in your book so you can always have it to add to or refer to if you get confused.

Vocabulary

Hammock	 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammock#/media/File:Hammock11.jpg
Rattlesnake	 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rattlesnake#/media/File:Crotalus_cerastes_mesquite_springs_CA.JPG

Scorpion



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scorpion#/media/File:Scorpion_Photograph_By_Shantanu_Kuveskar.jpg

Lizard


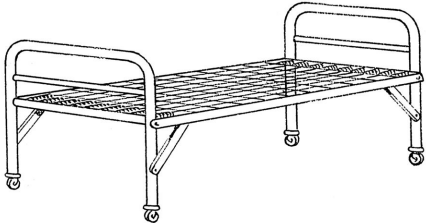



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lizard#/media/File:Bartagame_fcm.jpg

Stagecoach



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stagecoach#/media/File:Postkutsche_brig.

	jpg
Cowboy hat	 <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cowboy_hat#/media/File:Felthat.jpg</p>
Barren (adj.)	Land that cannot produce food or plants
Desolate (adj.)	Very empty, nothing around
Cot	 <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_bed#/media/File:Cot_(PSF).png</p>
Canteen	 <p>(Canteen is on the right)</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canteen_(bottle)#/media/File:Canteen_0002.jpg</p>