

Holes-Louis Sachar

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Activities produced by Liz Taylor, Advisory Teacher for Suffolk and Stuart Scott. This novel, currently very popular with Years 7 and 8. The novel is constructed in such a careful way that activities that take all the individual bits for children to manipulate in a variety of ways work extremely well.

We have come up so far with character cards for eight characters and a Connect Four Game on significant items in the story. . Please feed back to us any other successful collaborative activities that you have devised for the story. We have produced a version that prints on two sheets of A4 which you will need to join. If you have an A3 printer go to /holesextra.pdf for a version on one page.

The webaddress for this activity is <<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/holes.pdf>>

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COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible teaching materials in all subject areas and for all ages.

17, Barford Street, Islington, London N1 0QB UK Phone: 0044 (0)20 7226 8885 Fax: 0044 (0)20 7704 1350

Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available by post or internet: "PAPERCLIP".

*These activities were influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in mixed classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers opportunities for spoken language and other assessment.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts and move them about physically they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in mother tongue and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

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Character Cards Activity

One way to use the cards is to print sets on different coloured card. Every child receives a card and reads about their character. They then have to join with another child with the same coloured card, and find out about each other. This pair then join with another pair with the same colour and then introduce each other to each other. Since there are eight characters you may want to print two sets and split them so that you have sets of four in one colour - easier to do than explain!

Connect Four Activity

Each team (twos or threes) has a set of cards in a different colour. The cards are placed face downwards and each team takes it in turn to take one of their own cards. After taking a card they must place it on an appropriate square. The aim is to get four cards in a row in any direction.

Stanley Yelnats

You can read my name in either direction. I am overweight and get bullied at school. My family is unlucky, because my great great grandfather had a witch put a curse on him. My father is an inventor. I am always in the wrong place at the wrong time. I have been wrongly convicted of stealing old sneakers from a famous baseball player, and sent to Camp Green Lake. My nickname is Caveman.

Ms Walker

I am tall, have red hair and a lot of freckles. I usually wear a black cowboy hat and boots. I wear homemade red nail varnish. It has rattlesnake venom in it which is only poisonous when wet. I am the Warden at Camp Green Lake. My family lived here a hundred and ten years ago. Then the lake was full of water. I own the only shade in the camp. I am in charge here.

Mr Sir

My real name is not Mr Sir, but that is what I want everyone to call me. I wear sunglasses all the time and a cowboy hat. I have a nice rattlesnake tattoo on my arm. I am irritable most of the time because I have given up smoking. Now I eat a sack of sunflower seeds every week. I am a counsellor at Camp Green Lake. It is a camp for bad boys. It isn't a Girl Scouts' Camp.

Clyde Livingston

I am a famous baseball player. I am the only player ever to have hit four triples in one game. I was once homeless, and so I feel sorry for those who have to live in a hostel. My nickname is Sweet Feet. I do suffer from a terrible incurable foot fungus and have to shower very often.

Hector Zeroni

I remember that I once lived in a house, but mostly I have lived in the streets and sometimes in homeless hostels. I am quite small and dark skinned. I used to be with my mum, but she disappeared. I can't read but I can count. I am at Camp Green Lake, because I was caught stealing a new pair of sneakers. I am good at digging. I don't talk much. My nickname is Zero.

Mr Pedanski

























I am a counsellor at Camp Green Lake. I keep an eye on the boys, and take them water when they are digging the holes. I believe that the kids here have done bad things, but that doesn't mean that they are bad kids. The kids call me Mom, but I don't mind. The only kid I don't think will do well is Zero. There is nothing inside his head. His silence really irritates me.

Twitch

























My real name is Brian. I was sent to the camp for stealing a car. I can break into a car, disconnect the alarm and hotwire the engine in less than a minute. I don't mean to steal them. It's just that if I see a real nice car on its own, I start to twitch. The next thing I know, I'm behind the wheel. It was brave of Stanley to steal the pickup. Pity he could not drive.

Elya Yelnats

I was Stanley's great great grandfather, but of course I did not know this. I brought a curse on the family. I fell in love with a beautiful girl whose head was as empty as a flowerpot. Madame Zeroni gave me a pig, and told me to carry it up the mountain every day. The pig and I grew big and strong. Myra was still not sure if she wanted to marry me, so I gave up and went to America. But I broke my promise to Madame Zeroni, and the family is now cursed.

 preserved peaches	 foot fungus	 a rattlesnake	 a mountain	 preserved peaches	 foot fungus
 sunflower seeds	 water	 onions	 a lizard	 a shovel	 a curse
 a curse	 onions	 lipstick in a gold tube	 preserved peaches	 water	 lipstick in a gold tube
 foot fungus	 a boat	 a shovel	 sunflower seeds	 a rattlesnake	 onions

Use this flap to stick to other half of board

 <p>sunflower seeds</p>	 <p>water</p>	 <p>a boat</p>	 <p>a lizard</p>	 <p>preserved peaches</p>	 <p>a mountain</p>
 <p>a rattlesnake</p>	 <p>a mountain</p>	 <p>preserved peaches</p>	 <p>foot fungus</p>	 <p>onions</p>	 <p>a curse</p>
 <p>lipstick in a gold tube</p>	 <p>a boat</p>	 <p>a curse</p>	 <p>lipstick in a gold tube</p>	 <p>a shovel</p>	 <p>water</p>
 <p>a shovel</p>	 <p>onions</p>	 <p>sunflower seeds</p>	 <p>a rattlesnake</p>	 <p>a mountain</p>	 <p>a lizard</p>

Kate Barlow's has got her initials on.	Kate Barlow always puts this on before kissing the man she has just killed.	Stanley found a container for this in his hole	Mr Sir eats half a pack a week.	Yellow spotted lizards like to eat these.	Zero sheltered under one of these in a hole where he found sploosh.	Stanley said he had stolen these from the pick up.	Sam had one of these named Mary Lou like his donkey.
They were called food for the angels.	Kate Barlow won prizes with these.	When they were 110 years old they helped Zero survive in the desert lake	Zero called them sploosh. They tasted like warm bubbly nectar.	Stanley's father's foot odour cure smells like them.	Miss Katherine paid Sam with these to repair the school.	Trout Walker offered Miss Katherine a ride in his. She refused.	Trout Walker owned the fastest and dirtiest one in Green Lake.
One of these bit Kate Barlow on the ankle.	They dislike the taste of onions, so they don't bite you if you have onion blood.	They have black teeth, a milky white tongue and strong powerful legs.	You will die a slow and painful death if you are bitten by one of these.	It makes your feet and shoes smell like dead fish.	Clyde Livingston, a famous baseball player suffered from this.	Trout Walker also suffered from this, but only washed his feet once a week.	Stanley's father invented a cure for this.
One is called God's Thumb, because it looks a fist with its thumb sticking up.	Water runs uphill here.	Lots of onions grow on one.	One is just about visible from the camp.	One saved his great grandfather's life.	Stanley's great great grand father carried a pig up one.	You can end up with one of these if you break a promise.	It passes from one generation to another.
It is 5 feet long.	You have to use it to see when your hole is big enough.	Zero hit Mr Pendanski with his.	If you don't bother it, it won't bother you.	It rattles its tail to warn you to stay away.	Mr Sir has a tattoo of one that wriggles on his arm.	The Warden puts its venom in her nail varnish.	Stanley managed to lift it by carrying Zero up the mountain.
It is the most precious thing in the camp.	Stanley and Zero found some at the top of the mountain.	Stanley tried to steal a truck full of it.	When the curse was lifted it returned to Green Lake.	Sam had a field full of these on the other side of the lake.	It is nature's magic vegetable.	Sam made ointments syrups and pastes out of them.	Sam's donkey Mary Lou eats nothing but these raw.

Stanley Yelnats

<p>a long sleeve orange jumpsuit, an orange T shirt, yellow socks, white sneakers, an orange cap with a piece of cloth sewn on the back for neck protection. the clothes smelled like soap</p>	<p>At the camp convicted of stealing a pair of sneakers.</p>	<p>He was overweight when he arrived at Camp Green Lake.</p>
<p>he felt like he was digging his own grave</p>	<p>His nickname is "Caveman"</p>	<p>He was too weak to climb out of the first hole he dug</p>

Mr Sir

<p>A man was sitting with his feet up on a desk</p>	<p>"You're not in the girl scouts any more."</p>	<p>he had a tattoo of a rattlesnake on his arm, and as he signed his name the snake's rattle seemed to wiggle.</p>
<p>He wore sunglasses and a cowboy hat</p>	<p>The man in the cowboy hat spit sunflower seedshells into a wastepaper basket.</p>	<p>"I used to smoke a pack a day. Now I eat a sack of these (sunflower seeds) every week."</p>
<p>"Noone is going to babysit you."</p>	<p>You want to run away? you'll be buzzard food in three days</p>	<p>"He's just been in a bad mood ever since he quit smoking."</p>

Mr Pedanski

younger than Mr Sir and not nearly as scary looking	the top of his head was shaved so close it was almost bald	his face was covered in a thick curly black beard
You've done some bad things but that doesn't mean that you are a bad kid. I'm going to help you turn your life around.	his nose was badly sunburned	

Hector Zeroni

the smallest kid but the first one to finish digging	nickname is Zero	

Ms Walker

the person you've got is worry about is the warden. There's really only one rule at Camp Green Lake, don't upset the warden		she owns the shade at Camp Green Lake
s	s	