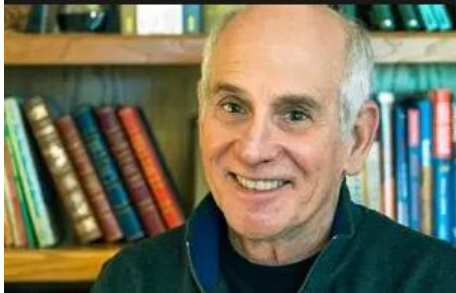


Autumn 1 Knowledge Organiser – Year 6

Louis Sachar

Louis Sachar is an American young-adult mystery-comedy author best known for the *Wayside School* series and the novel *Holes*, which won the 1998 National Book Award for Young People's Literature and the 1999 Newbery Medal.



If you enjoyed *Holes* by Louis Sachar, you could check out *Escape Room* by Christopher Edge, *Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl and *Millions* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

Text: *Holes* by Louis Sachar

Genre: Contemporary fiction/realistic fiction

School Value Links: Community, perseverance and inspiration

What is the text about?

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no good-dirty rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather. Now Stanley been unjustly sent to a boys' detention centre, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realise there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake.



Characters

Stanley	The main character who is arrested for a crime he didn't commit.
Zero	A fellow prisoner, who Stanley befriends.
Mr Pendanski	The kind-hearted camp counsellor who cares for the boys.
Warden	She runs Camp Green Lake, owns the shade and has a deep, dark secret.

Themes

Fate and destiny – you can't escape your future, or can you?

Friendship – the value of solid friendship is explored through Stanley and the other boys.

Justice and injustice – Stanley has been imprisoned for a crime he didn't commit, should he be punished at all?

Authority – we explore the role of adults in the book and how they relate to Stanley and the other boys.

Nature – there are dangers in the desert, the heat and the landscape are powerful and often influence the characters in the text.

Key word	Defintion
auction	a public sale in which goods/property are sold to the highest bidder
counsellor	a person trained to give guidance on personal or psychological problems
descendants	a person that is descended from a particular ancestor
desolate	uninhabited and giving an impression of bleak emptiness
juvenile	for or relating to young people.
miscarriage	an unsuccessful outcome of something planned
shovel	a tool resembling a spade with a broad blade and typically upturned sides
shrivelled	wither, as a result of loss of moisture
barren	land too poor to produce vegetation/bleak, lifeless
jurisdiction	the official power to make legal decisions and judgements
perseverance	persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.
legitimate	conforming to the law or to rules