



**L.O: To be able to use fact
and opinion to review.**

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What do you know about book reviews?





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Why would we write book reviews?

- ◊ To share our opinion of books
- ◊ To recommend a book that we liked
- ◊ To encourage others to read

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What is included in a book review?



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General Information

- **Author**

- **Title**

- **Pages**

- **Date published**

- **Genre**

- This information is easy to find out. Just read the cover, blurb and first page to find the facts.

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Your bit!

- This information can only be written if you have read the book.
- Some of it is fact but your opinion is very important too.
- The story
- The characters
- Highlights
- Any weak bits?
- What was so great?

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The story

- This is WHAT happens. To help you think about the main events, first draw a time line with the beginning scene of the book at the top of a piece of paper and the final scene at the bottom.
- E.g. Write "Harry starts at Hogwarts" at the top and "Harry defeats Voldemort" at the bottom.
- You can also write a sentence about WHERE and WHEN the story takes place. E.g. At Hogwarts school of wizardry in the present day.

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The characters

Or WHO is in the book. To help you describe the characters, first jot down these details:

- Name of character
- Role
- Adjective to describe them

For example:

- Harry Potter
- Schoolboy wizard
- Brave

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Highlights

- This is where you describe your favourite part of the book. Was there a particular piece of action, description or characters' speech you really enjoyed?

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Any weak bits?

- Were there any chapters where you found yourself wishing for some action to liven up the plot? Any unrealistic characters? Any descriptions or chapters that you felt were rubbish?

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What was so great?

- Did you grab the book whenever you had a spare moment? Did you read it rather than playing computer games or watching TV? Or did you read the first chapter before letting it gather dust on your bookshelf?

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What do you think of this review?

Holes

Written by Louis Sachar

Reviewed by Phoebe C. (age 11)

Stanley Yelnats has never been very lucky. That's because he is under a curse, a curse that started with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing great-great-grandfather. Stanley is unjustly accused of stealing! He is sent to Camp Green Lake, where there is a dried up lake, and a myriad of holes. Stanley is forced to dig holes to build character. The holes must be five feet wide, and five feet deep.

Soon, Stanley realizes that he is not digging holes to improve his character. Someone is looking for something, hidden somewhere in the dry expanse that was once a sea-green lake. Then, something happens to his best friend, and Stanley ends up on the most dangerous and amazing journey of his life.

I loved this book. It had adventure, romance, and comedy. I think that both boys and girls would like it, because it's about a lot of different characters.

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My favorite characters were Kate Barlow and Zero Zeroni. Kate Barlow was a brave woman with opinions of her own and the love of Onion Sam to keep her dreams alive. Zero was one of the boys at Camp Green Lake. He hardly ever spoke, so everyone thought he was stupid. He was really very smart, and turned out to be a great friend.

When I read this book, I felt many different emotions. Sometimes I laughed, and other times I cried, and every once in a while I squeaked like a mouse, scared or excited for the characters as if I were right there with them.

When I started reading it, I couldn't stop, and my mom had to pry it out of my hands. It really made me think. I realized how lucky I was, to have a mother and father, to have warm water, to have clean clothes, and especially to have the freedom to be friends with any person, regardless of their color, religion or gender. Wouldn't you be upset if you weren't allowed to fall in love with someone, just because of the way they looked, or the religion they were, or the things they believed.



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Some of the words in this book will never come out of my mind as long as I live. That's why "Holes" is such a good book.

I recommend this book to anyone who likes adventure, friendship and superstition. It has a curse, an unusual group of friends, and some fantastic characters. I think that fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh graders would like it. Holes is a great book!



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Your Task

To write a review of your favourite book.

Do not stick this in your book, keep it safe and bring it to school when we return. It will form a big book of reviews.