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UNIT ONE

Change
Holes

By Louis Sachar

Based on the book Holes, by Louis Sachar.
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The largest lake in Texas used to be Green Lake. Now Green Lake is dry. The water has gone and the land is flat and dry. The people of the town moved away when the lake went dry. But Camp Green Lake is still there. Camp Green Lake is a camp for boys who have made bad decisions. Each boy has to
At Camp Green Lake, boys dug holes.

Stanley Yelnats was not really a bad boy, but a judge said he was guilty anyway. The judge gave Stanley a choice. Stanley could go to jail or to Camp Green Lake. The judge did not tell Stanley what the camp was. Stanley’s family was poor and he had never been to camp. He thought camp would be fun.
He picked Camp Green Lake. Stanley had a lot of trouble in his life. He blamed his trouble on his great-great-grandfather. Stanley’s family said that a gypsy put a curse on Stanley’s great-great-grandfather because he broke a promise. Stanley thought the curse was why he had to go to Camp Green Lake.

At Camp Green Lake, boys dug holes.
Stanley got off the bus at Camp Green Lake. Camp Green Lake had no fences but the warden did not have to worry about boys running away. There was nowhere to run. Stanley was assigned to Tent D. In Tent D, he met the other boys. The boys told Stanley he would have to dig a big hole! Every day!
At Camp Green Lake, boys dug holes.

Stanley took a shower. Water was scarce at Camp Green Lake so his shower was short. Next, Stanley ate dinner. The boys asked Stanley why he was sent to Camp Green Lake. Stanley told them the judge found him guilty of stealing a pair of sneakers. The sneakers belonged to a famous basketball player. Stanley told the boys how it happened. He was walking home...
one day. The sneakers fell from a bridge. One sneaker hit
Stanley in the head. It turned out the sneakers had been
stolen from a homeless shelter. The police saw Stanley with the
sneakers and arrested him. After dinner, Stanley laid on his cot.
He tried to sleep. In the morning, the boys started digging
holes in the dry lake. Stanley dug his first hole and got a
lot of blisters on his hands. Camp Green Lake was not a fun
place. Digging was hard work. It was very hot. Stanley was so thirsty. He wanted a drink of water. He wanted to take a shower. Finally, the boys finished digging and returned to camp.

At Camp Green Lake, boys dug holes.

Stanley was tired. His blisters on his hands hurt! He missed his family. Before Stanley went to sleep, he wrote a letter to his family. He didn’t tell them that Camp Green Lake was not fun.
The next day, Stanley’s body hurt. It even hurt to lift his spoon to eat breakfast. Stanley started digging his second hole. He found a rock with fish fossils in it. Stanley remembered the day off rule. When someone found a treasure the warden liked, that person could get the day off. He hoped the warden
liked this treasure. Stanley showed it to his camp counselor, Mr. Pendanski. Mr. Pendanski said the fossil was not a treasure.

Stanley had to keep working.

Stanley found a treasure.

X-Ray was the leader of Tent D. After Stanley found the treasure, X-ray asked Stanley to give him the next interesting thing he found. Stanley wanted the boys to like him. He said
OK to X-Ray. Stanley was the last one to finish digging his hole again. When he got back to camp, Mr. Pendanski was talking with all of the boys. He wanted the boys to start making goals for when they left the camp. He wanted them to know they were in charge of their futures. All the boys had nicknames. They named Stanley "the Caveman." He was glad they gave him a nickname. It meant the boys liked him.
Stanley found a treasure.

The next day, Stanley started digging his 14th hole. After lunch, he found something shiny in the dirt in his hole. It was a narrow gold tube about the size of his index finger. It had a heart with the letters K.B. carved in it. Stanley didn’t think Mr. Pendanski would think it was a treasure so he gave it to X-Ray.
Early the next day, X-Ray showed the treasure to Mr. Pendanski. If the warden liked it, X-Ray could get most of the day off. Mr. Pendanski showed the gold tube to the warden. The warden liked the treasure a lot. X-Ray got the day off. He got extra time in the shower. He got clean clothes, too.
Stanley found a treasure.

All the boys from Tent D got special treatment. They got extra water in their canteens. After this, X-Ray was nicer to Stanley.

The other boys were nicer to Stanley, too. The warden wanted the boys to keep looking for treasures. She made them look through loose piles of dirt. They looked in the dirt near X-Ray's hole. The warden stayed with them all day. She wanted to