

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. A palindrome is a word, phrase, verse, or sentence that reads the same backward or forward. For example: A man, a plan, a canal, Panama! Stanley Yelnats is another example of a palindrome. Create a list of as many words or phrases as you can that are palindromes. See if you can come up with some of your own.
2. In Chapter 12, Mr. Pendanski was sitting around with the boys, discussing what their goals were. Write down what some of your short-term and long-term goals are. Interview a few of your classmates and see what their short-term and long-term goals are. Create a chart that displays these goals.
3. Write an extended ending to Holes. In your extended ending, include details of what it was like for Stanley to go back to school. How did he view himself and how did others view him? How did he deal with the Derrick Dunne, the school bully? What happened to Zero?
4. Foreshadowing is when an author leaves clues throughout the novel suggesting events to come. Look back through Holes and write down the clues, and their page numbers, that Louis Sachar gave to the reader. Explain what each of the clues was foreshadowing.
5. The novel had two stories that were being told together. The stories involved the events taking place in the present with Stanley and his experiences, and what had happened in the past with Stanley's relatives. Many of the characters in the present were similar to those of the past. Compare and contrast some of these characters.
6. In several instances throughout the novel, the author made reference to racial issues. For example, the boys teased Stanley because Zero, who was black, had to dig his holes. Also, the townspeople burned down Ms. Katherine's schoolhouse because she kissed Sam who was black. What message do you think the author was trying to convey to the readers. Think about the positive and negative experiences that took place and what resulted from them. Write an essay about this.
7. Bullying is a problem that takes place in schools, workplaces, and homes across the country. Explain how Stanley was a victim of bullying and what he did to overcome that. Include your opinion of how you think Stanley will deal with bullies in the future. In your opinion, what are the best ways to deal with a bully?
8. Write a composition about why you think Louis Sachar titled his book Holes. Be sure to think about the metaphor of "digging holes" and "digging yourself out of holes."
9. One of the issues in the novel is that of Zero being homeless. Do a research

report about the homeless problem in your town or in your state. Write a letter to a local government official offering suggestions to deal with the homeless problem in your area.

10. Create a family tree for the Yelnat's family. Give a description about each of the individuals on the tree. See if you can create a family tree for some of the other characters. Create a family tree for your own family.

11. Compare and contrast the movie with the book. What did you like (or not like) about the movie that wasn't in the book?