# Holes by Louis Sachar

## Character profiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject(s):</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age group(s):</td>
<td>12–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic:</td>
<td>Literature</td>
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</tbody>
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Source: This resource was originally developed by Charlotte Hurley and has been adapted by EAL Nexus.
Characters in Holes

Stanley and his family

**Stanley Yelnats**

Stanley Yelnats is the main character in the novel. His name is spelt the same backwards as it is forwards. He is an only child (he doesn’t have any brothers or sisters). He is overweight. He has a lot of bad luck because of a family curse. His nickname at Camp Green Lake is ‘Caveman’.

**Elya Yelnats**

Elya Yelnats is Stanley’s great-great-grandfather. Elya lived in Latvia and was in love with Myra. Elya knows Madame Zeroni.

**Stanley Yelnats I (the first Stanley Yelnats)**

The first Stanley Yelnats is the son of Elya Yelnats. He is the great-grandfather of the main character Stanley in the story. He made a fortune on the stock market but Kissin’ Kate Barlow stole it.

**Mrs Yelnats**

Mrs Yelnats is Stanley’s mother. She doesn’t believe in the curse. She reminds Stanley and his father about the good luck in the family.

**Stanley Yelnats III (Stanley’s father)**

The third Stanley Yelnats is the main character’s father. He is an inventor. He is trying to invent a way to recycle old trainers. Because of the family curse, Stanley’s father is unlucky with his inventions. He doesn’t invent anything good.
## Other people in the story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Derrick Dunne</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Derrick is the bully at Stanley’s school. Derrick is much smaller than Stanley so the teachers don’t believe that Derrick bullies Stanley. Derrick takes Stanley’s notebook and drops it down the toilet.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Clyde Livingston</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clyde is a famous baseball player. Stanley is accused of stealing Clyde Livingston’s trainers. Clyde has a foot fungus which makes his feet smell.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The people at Camp Green Lake
The young people Stanley shares a tent with

**Zero**
Zero’s real name is Hector. Zero is the fastest digger. The other boys and the counsellors think that Zero is stupid because he doesn’t speak very much. Zero is very good at maths but he can’t read or write. Zero was homeless before he came to Camp Green Lake. He is at Camp Green Lake because he stole some shoes.

**X-Ray**
X-Ray is the leader of the group. His real name is Rex. He is small and he has bad eyesight.

**Squid**
His real name is Alan. Squid often makes fun of Stanley when Stanley receives letters from his mother.

**Magnet**
Magnet’s real name is José. He has the nickname magnet because he likes to steal things. He says his fingers are like little magnets.

**Armpit**
Armpit’s real name is Theodore. Armpit gets angry and pushes Stanley to the floor when Stanley calls him by his real name.

**Zigzag**
Zigzag is another boy that sleeps in the same tent as Stanley. Zigzag’s real name is Ricky. Zigzag doesn’t apologise when he accidentally hits Stanley on the head with a shovel.
The staff

**The Warden**
The Warden is in charge at Camp Green Lake. She makes the boys dig holes every day. She paints her nails with red nail polish. The nail polish contains rattlesnake venom.

**Mr Pendanski**
Mr Pendanski is one of the counsellors at Camp Green Lake. The boys call him 'Mom'. Mr Pendanski is in charge of tent D which is Stanley’s tent. Mr Pendanski appears to be kind and caring but he makes fun of Zero and calls him stupid.

**Mr Sir**
Mr Sir is one of the counsellors at Camp Green Lake. He is tough and mean. He eats sunflower seeds all the time because he has given up smoking.
People who lived in Green Lake town 100 years before

**Sam**

Sam grew and sold onions. He had a donkey called Mary-Lou. Sam made medicines and drinks and tonics out of the onions. He sold the medicines to the people in the town. Sam was black so he was not allowed to go to the school or to date a white woman. He made himself a wooden rowing boat.

**Miss Katherine Barlow**

Katherine lived in the town of Green Lake more than 100 years before Camp Green Lake was built. She was the schoolteacher in Green Lake. She made jars of spiced peaches for the people in the town. Katherine fell in love with Sam.

**Charles Walker**

Charles Walker was the son of the richest man in Green Lake. He was spoilt and loud and rude. His nickname was ‘Trout’ because he had a foot fungus which made his feet smell terrible. His feet smelt like rotten dead fish. He had a new motorboat.

**Kissin’ Kate**

Kissin’ Kate was an outlaw in the American West. She stole money and valuables from men. Usually, she stole the money and then she kissed her victim and left a red lipstick mark on them.