

Literature Circle Guide:

Holes

by Tonya Ward Singer

S C H O L A S T I C
PROFESSIONAL BOOKS

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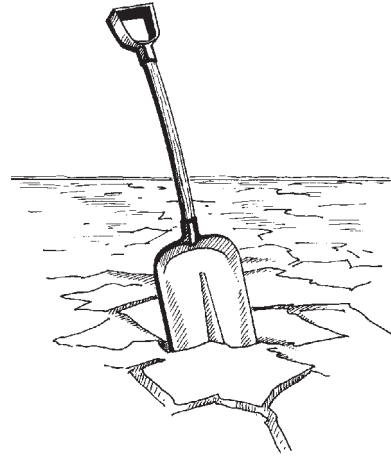
Name _____ Date _____

Holes

Before Reading the Book

Reading Strategy: Using Prior Knowledge

Your understanding of a new book begins even before you read the first page. Your knowledge and life experiences can help you imagine and understand the setting, characters, and events in a story. Think about the title and pictures on the cover of *Holes*. Read the information on the book jacket. What are your first responses to the book?



Writing in Your Literature Response Journal

A. Write about one of these topics in your journal. Circle the topic you chose.

1. Think about the title. What do you know about holes? A hole can be visible, or something invisible such as a hole in a story. Make a list of possible types of holes. How do you expect holes to relate to this novel?
2. Have you ever moved, changed schools, or traveled to an unfamiliar place on your own? Describe your experiences. What were your expectations and first impressions? How did they change over time?
3. What do you know about your great-great-grandparents and your other ancestors who lived before you? Write about one of your ancestors. Include what you know about this person as well as questions you have. What connections can you find between your ancestor's life and your own?

B. What were your predictions, questions, observations, and connections about the book? Write about one of them in your journal. Check the response you chose.

- Prediction Question Observation Connection

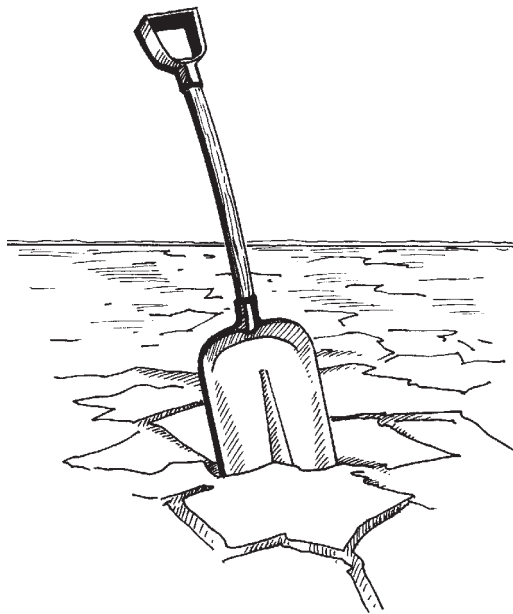
Name _____ Date _____

Holes

Before Reading the Book

For Your Discussion Group

- * Discuss what you already know about juvenile justice. What happens to a child who is caught breaking the law? What do the police do? What rights does the child have?
- * Imagine the police catch a twelve-year-old who has stolen \$100 from a store. Should the theft be punished, and if so, how? Take turns letting each person in the group be the judge and determining a fair consequence. After each person has passed judgment, discuss the possible impact each consequence might have on a child.
- * Now talk about the various reasons a child might have for stealing the money. Do any of those reasons justify the crime?
- * What questions do you still have about juvenile justice in the United States? Brainstorm a list of questions that remain unanswered for your group. Think about which people and resources in your community can help you find the answers. Form pairs, choose questions, and become detectives to seek out the answers before your next meeting.



TIP

When you are brainstorming, remember that the goal is to collect as many different ideas as possible without commenting on them. Everybody's ideas should be included.