



HILL TOP

Preparatory School

June 14, 2017

Dear 5th and 6th Grade Parents,

Summer is coming and with that, comes beaches, sun, and a good summer read. This summer, the students heading into the 5th and 6th grades will be assigned *Holes* by Louis Sachar. This is a modern-day classic that chronicles the time spent by its protagonist, Stanley Yelnats, in a boys' detention center.

Enclosed you will find the reading guide that should be given to your child. It gives a very brief description of the book and provides instructions on the writing assignment that corresponds to the book. Basically, we are asking that each student answer all the questions from the reading guide. Each question's response should be a paragraph long.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at mcohen@hilltopprep.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Mike Cohen
Middle School Division Head

Holes by Siobhan Dowd

“Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys’ detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

It doesn’t take long for Stanley to realize there’s more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.”

From [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/Holes-Siobhan-Dowd/dp/0312367541)

Student Assignment

Write a paragraph for each of the three questions asked from this book. Make sure you use topic sentences for each paragraph.

1. Using three examples from the book, explain how Stanley becomes stronger and/or he becomes tougher from digging the holes.
2. What emotions did this book bring about? Give two emotions, using at least three examples from the book.
3. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not? Include at least four examples from the book that supports your answer.