

Conflict in Holes by Louis Sachar Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Ms. Aravelo's Class
General Smallwood Middle School Charles County, Maryland

[All but #1-4 pantomime digging holes.]

1 Excuse me. What are you doing?

All We're digging holes.

1 Holes?

All Holes.

2 Why?

All To build character. [gesture]

3 Why holes?

4 Why not sandcastles?

5 Cause that's not the name of the story.

1 What story?

All Holes!

6 It's a novel by Louis Sachar.

2 About digging holes?

All Right.

3 Who's digging the holes?

7 Kids like you and me. Stanley—but we call him Caveman—and Zero...

All Zero—as in nothing! Nada! Zippo! Zilch! [sound effect] [gesture]

4 Just kids?

8 No—juvenile delinquents.

9 Boys sent to Camp Green Lake as punishment.

1 Punishment for what?

10 For stealing money or cars.

11 For getting into fights.

12 For allegedly stealing shoes.

13 The court sends them to live at Camp Green Lake.

2 Lakes aren't green.

14 This lake was green, but now it's not even a lake anymore.

15 It's just a big dried up hole in the middle of a barren desert. [sound effect]

11 A desert complete with

5-10 Rattlesnakes [sound effect],

11-15 scorpions [sound effect],

15-25 and deadly poisonous lizards! [sound effect]

3 So these juvenile delinquents—why are they digging holes? [gesture]

5 For punishment...

All ...and to build character! [gesture]

4 Really?

6 That's what the vicious and vile warden says!

7 She rules with an iron fist [gesture]

8 And she expects immediate obedience! [gesture]

9 "Fill it! And the next time I tell you to do something, I expect you to do it without questioning my authority!"

4 So is that the conflict in the story?

All Conflict? [gesture]

4 You know—the struggle between two forces—every good story has one.

10 Holes has lots of conflicts.

11 Will Zero ever find his mom?

12 Will Zigzag stop constantly pounding on Stanley?

13 Will the warden ever be stopped from mistreating the boys?

14 Will the Attorney General find Zero's computer records?

15 Will the warden find the treasure?

5 Will Stanley and Zero survive in the desert without food or water?

6 Will they actually make it to Big Thumb on the top of the mountain?

All [sound effect—dunt-da-dunt-dun!] [gesture]

1 Well, did they?

2 Will they?

1-4 What happened?

7 Calm down. All the conflicts are resolved.

8 But as the book says,

All "You will have to fill in the holes yourself!" [gesture]

5 Holes by Louis Sachar—

All Holes—Dig it up and read it! [gesture]

