

Vocabulary Handbook

Holes

by Louis Sachar

Name: _____

	WORD PART	MEANING	PART OF SPEECH
a-	prefix	from, away, away from	
ab-	prefix	from, away, away from	
-able	suffix	able to, can be done	adjective
-ade	suffix		noun or verb
-age	suffix		noun
-an	suffix	like, resembling, similar to	noun
-ance	suffix		noun
ant-	prefix	before, prior to	
-ant	suffix	person who	noun
ap-	prefix	from, away, away from	
apo	Greek combining form	away from, separate	
archy	Greek combining form	govern, rule	
-ate	suffix		adjective
-ate	suffix	to do, to make	verb
cap	Latin root	to take, to receive	
cata	Greek combining form	down, under	
ceal	Latin root	to hide, hidden	
cess	Latin root	to be in motion, to go away	
cid	Latin root	to fall, to befall	
clypt	Greek combining form	cover, hide, conceal	
co-	prefix	together, with	
com-	prefix	together, with	
con-	prefix	together, with	
cor-	prefix	heart	
cracy	Greek combining form	to govern, to rule	
cur	Latin root	to care for, to give attention to	
de-	prefix	completely	
de-	prefix	down	
de-	prefix	opposite of	
demn	Latin root	to harm, to punish	

demo	Greek combining form	people, population	
dent	Latin root	tooth, teeth	
dict	Latin root	talk, speak, declare	
dign	Latin root	worthy of respect	
-ed	inflectional ending		past tense verb
-ed	suffix		adjective
em	Greek combining form	in, inward	
emp	Latin root	to take, to take up	
-en	suffix		adjective
-ence	suffix		noun
-ent	suffix		adjective
-er	suffix	a person that does something	noun
-ery	suffix	denoting occupation or business	noun
ex-	prefix	out, upward, complete, remove from	
fect	Latin root	to make, to do, to build	
fic	Latin root	to make, to do, to build	
fore-	prefix	before	
fort	Latin root	bravery, power, strength	
front	Latin root	forehead, brow	
fuge	Latin root	drive away, flee, run away	
-ful	suffix	full of	
gen	Latin root	line of descent, origin	
gno	Latin root	know, learn, discern	
grade	Latin root	walk, step, move around	
gress	Latin root	walk, step, move around	
habit	Latin root	dwell, live	
hum	Latin root	human beings, mankind	
-ible	suffix	able to, can be done	adjective
-ic	suffix		adjective
-ice	suffix		noun
im-	prefix	not	
in-	prefix	not	

in-	prefix	in, into, within	
-ish	suffix		verb
-ism	suffix	belief in, practice of	noun
-ist	suffix	one who believes in, one who is engaged in	noun
-ity	suffix		noun
-ive	suffix		adjective or noun
-lative	suffix	bear, carry	
-le	suffix	little, small	noun
liber	Latin root	free	
luxur	Latin root	excess, abundance	
-ly	suffix		
mal	Latin root	bad	
-ment	suffix		noun
merg	Latin root	to dip, immerse, plunge	
mirac	Latin root	to wonder at, wonder, cause to smile	
mit	Latin root	let go, sent	
mon / mono	Greek combining form	one, alone, single	
monu	Latin root	warn, remind, advise	
-mony	suffix		noun
mors	Latin root	bite, biting	
nat	Latin root	born, birth	
-ness	suffix		noun
noc	Latin root	injure, hurt	
oleo	Latin root	to destroy, to die out	
omen	Latin root	to indicate something is going to happen	
optim	Latin root	best, exceptionally good	
-or	suffix	person who	noun
-ous	suffix		adjective
pac	Latin root	peace	
par	Latin root	to get ready, to prepare	
pass	Latin root	suffering, feeling, enduring	
pathy	Greek combining form	feeling, perception	

pend	Latin root	weight, to cause to hang down	
per-	prefix	through, across, over	
persever	Latin root	continue, persist	
pessim	Latin root	bad, worst	
ple	Latin root	fill, full	
plic	Latin root	to fold, bend, curve	
plu	Latin root	more, many	
poss	Latin root	power, strength, ability	
pre-	prefix	before	
preci	Latin root	prize, reward, value	
prehens	Latin root	reach, attain, hold	
priv	Latin root	belonging to an individual, not for the public	
pro-	prefix	before, forward	
prov	Latin root	upright, good, honest	
re-	prefix	back, again	
reg	Latin root	to direct, to rule	
render	Latin root	to give back, restore	
rupt	Latin root	break, tear	
-s	inflectional ending		plural noun
sati	Latin root	enough	
se-	prefix	by itself, aside, apart from	
seri	Latin root	important	
serve	Latin root	to watch, to keep safe	
-sion	suffix		noun
solen	Latin root	be accustomed	
spec / spect	Latin root	to see, look at, behold	
sper / spair	Latin root	hope	
spirat	Latin root	breath of life, mind, soul	
stereo	Greek combining form	solid, firm, hard	
stroph	Greek combining form	turn, twist, bend	
struct	Latin root	to build	
sub-	prefix	under, below, beneath	
sur-	prefix	on top, over, higher	

sym	Greek combining form	with, together	
termin	Latin root	end, last	
testi	Latin root	witness, one who stands by	
-tion	suffix		noun
tonous	Greek combining form	sound	
type	Greek combining form	an impression, a mark	
un-	prefix	not	
-ure	suffix		verb
vid	Latin root	see	
vinc	Latin root	conquer, overcome	
viol	Latin root	force, injure, dishonor	
vive	Latin root	life, alive	
-y	suffix		adjective

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

dark humor

Context:

“Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment.” (blurb)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

generations

Context:

“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.” (blurb)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

unjust

Context:

“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.”
(blurb)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

wasteland

Context:

“There is no lake at Camp Green Lake...Now it is just a dry, flat wasteland.” (p. 3)

“He looked out the window at the vast emptiness.” (wasteland is inferred on p. 8)

“The land was barren and desolate.” (wasteland is inferred on p. 11)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

perseverance

Context:

“To be a successful inventor you need three things: intelligence, perseverance, and just a little bit of luck. Stanley’s father was smart and had a lot of perseverance.”
(p. 8)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

character improvement

Context:

“It doesn’t take long for Stanley to realize there’s more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake.” (blurb)

“I prefer to use the names their parents gave them—the names society will recognize them by when they return home to be useful and hardworking members of society.”
(character improvement is inferred on p. 18)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Contrasts

Context:

“You may have done some bad things, but that doesn’t mean you’re a bad kid.”
(guilty is inferred on p. 17)

“It seemed pointless to try and tell his counselor that he was innocent.” (p. 17)

Target Words:

guilty vs. innocent

What it is...

What it is...

I’ll remember this word by:

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I’ll remember this word by:

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Vocabulary: Contrasts

Context:

“Stanley took it as some kind of sign...suddenly a pair of sneakers fell on top of him, seemingly out of nowhere, like a gift from God.” (destiny is inferred on p. 24)

“Stanley couldn’t help but think there was something special about the shoes, that they would somehow provide the key to his father’s invention. It was too much of a coincidence to be a mere accident. Stanley had felt like he was holding destiny’s shoes.” (p. 24)

Target Words:

destiny vs. coincidence

What it is...

What it is...

I’ll remember this word by:

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I’ll remember this word by:

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

curse

Context:

“Supposedly, he had a great-great-grandfather who had stolen a pig from a one-legged Gypsy, and she had put a curse on him and all his descendants. Stanley and his parents didn’t believe in curses, of course, but whenever anything went wrong, it felt good to be able to blame someone.” (p. 8)

“Madame Zeroni warned that if he failed to do this, he and his descendants would be doomed for all eternity.” (curse is inferred on p. 31).

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

defective

Context:

“Using all his might, he brought the shovel back down on to the dry lake bed. The force stung his hands but made no impression on the earth. He wondered if he had a defective shovel.” (p. 26)

“He glanced helplessly at his shovel. It wasn’t defective. He was defective.” (p. 27)

“Nearly everything in the room was broken...Even the people looked broken.”
(defective is inferred on p. 43)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

pessimistic

Context:

“He didn’t think it was possible.” (pessimistic is inferred on p. 48)

“He didn’t expect to find something anyway...he’d never been what you could call lucky.”
(pessimistic is inferred on p. 53)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

stereotype

Context:

“So far you’ve all done a pretty good job at messing up your lives.” (stereotype is inferred on p. 57)

“He couldn’t forget that they were dangerous...They were all here for a reason...On the lake they were all the same reddish brown color—the color of dirt.” (stereotype is inferred on p. 84)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

respect

Context:

“...he couldn't for the life of him figure out why anyone would want to be called Armpit...
Maybe it was a term of respect.” (p. 20)

“Stanley moved up one place in the line.” (respect is inferred on p. 63)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Contrasts

Context:

“X-Ray was right. The second hole was the hardest. It would take a miracle.” (p. 49)

“Supposedly, he had a great-great-grandfather who had stolen a pig from a one-legged Gypsy, and she had put a curse on him and all his descendants. Stanley and his parents didn’t believe in curses, of course, but whenever anything went wrong, it felt good to be able to blame someone.” (p. 8)

Target Words:

miracle vs. curse

What it is...

What it is...

I’ll remember this word by:

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I’ll remember this word by:

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Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

strength

Context:

“Every day you will carry the pig up the mountain. It will get a little bigger, but you will get a little stronger.” (p. 31)

“After digging all day, he didn’t have the strength to try to teach Zero to read and write. He needed to save his energy...” (p. 82)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

appreciate

Context:

“And as the truck bounced along the dirt, he was able to appreciate the air blowing through the open window onto his hot and sweaty face.” (p. 87)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

blame

Context:

“...whenever anything went wrong, it felt good to be able to blame someone.” (p. 8)

“He couldn’t blame his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather this time. This time it was his own fault, one hundred percent.” (p. 148)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

refuge

Context:

“I found refuge on God’s thumb.’ That was what his great-grandfather had supposedly said after Kate Barlow robbed him and left him stranded in the desert.” (p. 128)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

remorse

Context:

“[Stanley] was angry at everyone...but mostly he was angry at himself. He knew he should never have let Zero dig part of his hole for him.”
(remorse is inferred on p. 141)

What it is...

What it is not...

I'd probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I'll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Contrasts

Context:

“He had probably just done the stupidest thing he had ever done in his short and miserable life.”
(pessimistic is inferred on p. 148)

“He never would make it. For all he knew it was like chasing the moon...He doubted it was anything.”
(pessimistic is inferred on p. 153)

“When you spend your whole life living in a hole...the only way you can go is up.”
(optimistic is inferred on p. 160)

Target Words:

pessimistic vs. optimistic

What it is...

What it is...

I'll remember this word by:

I'll remember this word by:

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Vocabulary: Contrasts

Context:

“Big Thumb was his only hope. If there was no water, no refuge, then they’d have nothing, not even hope.” (p. 167)

“What [Stanley] worried about most was the thought of his parents not knowing what happened to him...living on false hope.” (p. 163)

“It was like chasing the moon.” (false hope is inferred on p. 161)

Target Words:

hope vs. false hope

What it is...

What it is...

I’ll remember this word by:

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I’ll remember this word by:

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Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

redemption

Context:

“Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.” (blurb)

“Zero’s confession seemed to bring him some relief.” (redemption is inferred on p. 175)

“[Stanley] was too happy to fall asleep. He knew he had no reason to be happy...It occurred to him that he couldn’t remember the last time he felt happiness. It wasn’t just being sent to Camp Green Lake that had made his life miserable. Before that he’d been unhappy at school...no one liked him, and the truth was, he didn’t especially like himself. He liked himself now.” (redemption is inferred on p. 186)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)

Vocabulary: Making Connections

Target Word:

perspective

Context:

“Her eyes seemed weary, as if she’d seen too many things in her life that she didn’t want to see.”
(perspective is inferred on p. 233)

What it is...

What it is not...

I’d probably find this word in these contexts (places, events, people, situations):

Text to World

I’ll remember this word by connecting it to:

(word, phrase, sketch)