

Holes Text Complexity

QUALITATIVE MEASURES	QUANTITATIVE MEASURES
<p>Levels of Meaning Multiple themes throughout the book increase the challenge for readers of this text. Themes include, but are not limited to, fate and destiny, redemption, and right vs. wrong. These themes are conveyed through the author’s use of dark humor. Louis Sachar uses sarcasm to raise difficult topics such as crime, discipline, obesity, poverty, homelessness, racism, stereotypes, greed, and bullying in a humorous way.</p> <p>Structure This narrative is told by means of an unconventional and complex story structure. Students must navigate five plot lines, four of them revealed through flashbacks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stanley’s story at Camp Green Lake (present) 2. Stanley’s story of how he came to Camp Green Lake (past) 3. The story of Stanley’s great-great-grandfather, Elya Yelnats 4. The story of Stanley’s great-grandfather 5. The story of Kissin’ Kate Barlow <p>Sachar also uses the parallel plots of Elya and Stanley in a way that allows students to recognize foreshadowing across plots.</p> <p>Language Conventinality and Clarity Louis Sachar uses figurative and ambiguous language and humor throughout the text, including sarcasm and irony. Historical language and dialect add a greater depth to the language of this text.</p> <p>Knowledge Demands While reading, students will need to rely on their understanding of the setting of the story to keep track of shifting time periods. In addition, there is a loose reference to the story of Moses in the book <i>Holes</i>. Key details from the story of Moses that parallel those in Stanley’s story include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Israelites were a nation of doubting people • God cursed the Israelites to wander the desert for 40 years in order to bring forth a new generation • God signaled his presence in many ways, including by giving the Israelites a miraculous supply of manna • Moses proved himself heroic by overcoming his doubts, timidity and inner strife 	<p>The Lexile level for <i>Holes</i> is 660, based on word frequency and sentence length. This is in the mid-to upper range of the complexity band for 2nd–3rd grade according to the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p>READER TASK CONSIDERATIONS</p> <p>These should be determined locally with reference to motivation, knowledge, and experiences as well as to the purpose and complexity of the tasks assigned and the questions posed.</p>