

Teen Community Service Book Review Guidelines

Find your next great read from True North's **New Teen Fiction** collection or from any **True North book display** and earn **three hours of community service** for writing a brief review!

This community service opportunity is only open to teens in grades 7-12 with a valid Longwood Public Library card.

1. Visit True North to pick out a book either from our New Teen Fiction collection or from a True North book display. The book that you review must be part of Longwood Public Library's teen collection.

Electronic books and audiobooks count too! Make sure that your electronic book is available through the Longwood Public Library catalog and fits our other requirements.

Looking for a new teen fiction book that's not part of our collection? Ask a Teen Services Librarian if we can purchase it! If so, you may either wait for Longwood's copy to arrive, or use another copy that's available to you in order to write your review. Books that we cannot order are *not* eligible for review.

2. Before starting your review, write a header with the following information:

- Your full name, grade, and the barcode number on the back of your library card.
- Your email address. *Please use an email address other than your school-issued email address, which cannot receive messages outside of the Longwood school system.*
- Book title, author, and number of pages. *Although we do not have a page requirement for our reviews, your chosen book must contain enough content to write a review that meets our guidelines.*
- Rating (on a scale of 1-5)

3. Draft your review based on the attached guidelines (see next page).

If your review does not meet our guidelines, you will be asked to make edits prior to receiving your community service certificate. Edits do not have a specific due date and can be completed on your own time--however, it may take a Teen Services Librarian up to five business days to read and respond to your updated review.

Reviews must be written entirely in your own words. A review will not be accepted if it contains sentences plagiarized from the internet or other reviews.

4. Carefully proofread your review for proper spelling, grammar, and completion of review requirements.

5. Submit your review via email to teens@longwoodlibrary.org.

Please allow up to five business days for processing of reviews and certificates.

Within five days, you will receive an email with your certificate or revisions to make.

Submit your review in advance of your community service deadline.

Teen Community Service Book Review Guidelines

Your review will help teens find their next great read in True North's book review binder, and may be featured on the library website. Your book review should:

- Summarize the content of the book
- Explain your opinion or response to the book (what you liked and/or disliked)
- Recommend the book to fans of a certain genre or other book.

Each review should include:

- 1. A headline.** This sentence or phrase at the top of your review is meant to hook the reader's attention.
- 2. A bulleted list of five characters, written in complete sentences.**
Identify each character and their role in the story.
- 3. A spoiler-free plot summary.** Your summary should be a clear and concise overview of the story, without retelling every event or spoiling major plot points. Set the stage and bring the story to life for potential readers by discussing the characters' goals and conflicts.
- 4. An evaluation of the story structure.** Your evaluation can comment on aspects such as: the writing style, the flow of the plot, themes, illustrations, and strengths/weaknesses of the story.

When sharing your opinions about the book, be sure to include supporting details. For example, instead of simply saying that you liked or disliked the book, explain what aspects of the book you liked or disliked, and why.
- 5. A discussion of the book's appeal.** Will teen readers enjoy this book? Who would you recommend this book to?

Your plot summary, evaluation, and discussion
of the book's appeal should total at least 250 words.

*If you have any questions, reach out to a Teen Services Librarian
anytime by visiting True North, calling 631-924-6400 ext. 249,
or by emailing teens@longwoodlibrary.org.*

See next page for a sample review.

Sample Book Review

Name: Book Mark

Grade: 9

Library Barcode Number: 20641001234567

Email Address: bookmark@gmail.com

Book Title: Holes

Author: Louis Sachar

Number of Pages: 233

Rating (on a scale of 1-5): 5/5

Headline: "Dig up treasure, truth, and treacherous lizards!"

Character List:

- **Stanley Yelnats** - Stanley is a 14-year-old boy with bad luck, who is wrongly accused of a crime he didn't commit. Instead of jail, Stanley is sent to Camp Green Lake, where he is forced to dig holes.
- **Zero** - Zero is the fastest digger at Camp Green Lake and befriends Stanley. Also known as Hector Zeroni, Zero is the great-great-great grandson of Madame Zeroni.
- **Madame Zeroni** - Madame Zeroni curse the entire Yelnats family with bad luck after Elya Yelnats, the great-great grandfather of Stanley Yelnats, failed to complete the task she'd assigned him.
- **The Warden** - The Warden is in charge of Camp Green Lake. She has the boys dig holes to look for the treasure buried by Kate Barlow and is the granddaughter of Trout Walker.
- **Kate Barlow** - Kate Barlow was a school teacher who fell in love with Sam "the onion man." After Sam was killed by the townspeople, Kate became the outlaw "Kissin' Kate Barlow," who eventually robbed Stanley Yenlats the First. She buried his money on the grounds that would become Camp Green Lake 100 years later.

Review:

Meet Stanley Yelnats: he's a criminal, but it's not his fault. Thanks to his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing great-great-grandfather, Stanley is accused of stealing a pair of shoes donated to an orphanage and is sent to Camp Green Lake for rehabilitation--but these boys don't do community service. They don't frolic in the lake--there is no lake! They dig holes, all day, every day. Each hole must be exactly five feet deep by five feet wide, and the only way to get out of digging is to find something that might interest The Warden. It doesn't take long for Stanley to catch on to The Warden's plan: he and his new friends aren't digging to build character--they're looking for treasure, buried 100 years ago by outlaw Kissin' Kate Barlow. When Zero, the camp's fastest digger, runs away into the desert, Stanley embarks on a daring mission to rescue his friend, braving deadly yellow-spotted lizards and blistering heat to save him. Once they're reunited, Zero joins Stanley in his quest to dig up the truth, discover his past, and clear his name.

Part mystery, part comedy, *Holes* is a tale about learning from the past, the road to self-discovery, and why exactly rattlesnake venom shouldn't be used as a nail polish ingredient. Author Louis Sachar takes readers for a ride with Stanley where, together, you'll unveil hidden truths and feel the heat of a sun so hot that you'll be reaching for your own water bottle. The only holes in Stanley's story are the ones he's digging--through flashbacks, Sachar reveals unexpected relationships that give meaning to everything from Stanley's friendship with Zero to The Warden's unrelenting drive to discover the treasure. While younger characters make this book a standout choice for middle school readers, there's something here for everyone: action, adventure, friendship, obstacles to overcome, and scary reptiles.