



# LONGWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

## TEEN SERVICES

## COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Earn community service by reviewing teen books! The Longwood Public Library is looking for teens who would be willing to read a newly released teen novel and write a brief review. To become a teen reviewer:

1. Stop by True North Teen Services and pick out a book from our "New Fiction" section. **Book Reviews may only be submitted for books published in the current year or immediately preceding year.**
2. **Please note that the books in our "New Fiction" section cover a wide range of ages and vary in content and maturity level.**
3. Draft your review based on the attached guidelines. **Reviews that do not meet our Teen Reviewer Guidelines will be refused. Reviews that are not original or not about new teen books will also be refused**, so check the publication date before selecting a book to review. All parts of your review must be wholly in your own words. Read your review carefully before submitting for spelling mistakes, grammar, and completion of review requirements.
4. Attach the following information to the top of your review:
  - Name
  - Email address – **Longwood School e-mail addresses cannot send e-mails outside of the Longwood School system, so you must use a non-Longwood e-mail address to send us your review**
  - Grade
  - Library Barcode Number
  - Title of the book
  - Author
  - 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 Teen Reviewer Guidelines.**
  - Rating (On A Scale Of 1-5)
5. Submit your review via email to [teens@longwoodlibrary.org](mailto:teens@longwoodlibrary.org). Reviews may be subject to editing.

Reviews will be kept in a binder in the True North Teen Services Department and used to advertise books on the Library's social media platforms. Reviewers will receive **3 hours** of community service credit for each submitted review that meets all of the listed requirements. Certificates acknowledging community service credit will be emailed as a PDF or may be picked up in True North. **This community service opportunity is only open to teens in grades 7-12 with a valid Longwood Public Library card.**

**Please allow 5 days for processing of reviews and certificates.** After your review is submitted, a librarian will read your review for content, grammar, cohesiveness, word count, and presence of all the review elements. Within 5 days, you will receive an email with your certificate **OR** a list of revisions. Once the revisions are made and received, your review will be reevaluated within 5 days.

**If you are submitting a review for a community service requirement – Honor Society, Religion, College Applications, etc. – submit in advance of your deadline. Remember that you may be required to make revisions. Reviews will not be read the night before required hours are due.**



## Teen Reviewer Guidelines:

The ideal book review should:

- Summarize the content of the book
- Explain your opinion or response to the book
- Gauge its appeal to a general or specific teen audience

Each review will contain the following major elements:

- **A headline.** This headline will be the first part of your review seen by the reader and should grab the reader's attention.
- **A list of major characters.** This list can be bulleted and should identify each character and their role in the narrative. This list should include 5 characters and should be written in complete sentences. If there are more than 5 major characters, pick your 5 favorite characters! If your chosen book does not contain 5 characters, your character list should include significant and additional descriptive details about those characters that do exist.
- **A plot summary.** The summary should be the "bones" of the story discussing what the main characters seek to accomplish. To find the "bones" of the story, expand on your character list by defining the challenges those characters face, significant others in the story, and the story's setting. Then, add details to bring the story to life for someone who has not read the book. Do not give a blow by blow retelling of every fact in the story. Your plot summary should cover the beginning and middle of the story, and include a discussion of the story's final conflict without giving away the ending or spoiling any major reveals. Your plot summary should be written in one single tense. **Remember that your review will be read by teens who have not read the book, so your plot summary must be clear and cohesive.**
- **A critical evaluation.** Comment on the structure of the book. Topics you can discuss in your critical evaluation include the writing style, the flow of the plot, the author's expertise for the subject, flaws in the story, themes, and illustrations or lists as a plot device. **Your plot summary and critical evaluation combined should total at least 250 words.**
- **A discussion of the book's appeal.** Will teen readers enjoy this book? Who would you recommend this book to?

Reviews should not contain judgmental language when describing a sensitive subject. It is not your task to convey the presence of certain material as a warning to others not to read the book.

**Reviews should not need extensive editing for spelling, grammar, content, understanding, or style. Proofread your work!**

# Sample Review:

**Name:** Book Mark

**Email Address:** bookmark@gmail.com

**Grade:** 9<sup>th</sup>

**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 a boy whom Stanley befriends at Camp Green Lake. Also known as Hector Zeroni, Zero is the great-great-great grandson of Madame Zeroni. He is the fastest digger at Camp Green Lake and is taught to read by Stanley.
- **Madame Zeroni** – Madame Zeroni cursed the whole 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 Yelnats The First. She buried his money on the grounds that would become Camp Green Lake one hundred years later.

## Review:

Meet Stanley: he’s a criminal, but it’s not his fault. He swears! Thanks to his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather, Stanley Yelnats is accused of stealing a pair of shoes donated to an orphanage and is sent to Camp Green Lake for his 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 one hundred years ago by the outlaw Kissin’ Kate Barlow. When Zero, another “camp attendee,” runs away into desert, Stanley embarks on a daring rescue mission, 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 as together you’ll uncover hidden truths, piece together revelations, 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 into the ground – 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.