



Activity One

Racism is a significant theme in the novel <u>Holes</u> as it appears both in the past and present plot lines. At one point, a reference is made to Zero being Stanley's slave.

INVESTIGATE the history of slavery in the United States.

Here are some questions for you to consider as you conduct your research:

- When and where it began
 - Why it began
 - Who was involved
- How slaves were brought to America
 - How slaves were treated
- Legendary and exceptional people of this time period
 - Escaping and people who helped slaves
 - How slavery ended
- The legacy of slavery... how it impacted the development of society and people's attitudes even after it was abolished





Activity Two

The setting for <u>Holes</u> was inspired by the heat of Texas. It takes place in the desert-like area of Green Lake.

First, RESEARCH a desert region of the United States such as one that you would find in the state of Arizona or New Mexico.

Then, create either a DIORAMA or 3D RELIEF MAP to represent the geographical features and characteristics of this area. Include a mini-model and information about a species that inhabits this region. Include labels and brief description of the features.

You may want to consider:

- The land and landforms
 - Vegetation
- Wildlife (species, habitat, food, adaptations etc.)
 - Climate / temperature/ weather patterns
 - Precipitation (if any!)





Activity Three

Good writers use powerful, descriptive language to create pictures in our minds when we are reading. Louis Sachar does just that when he describes the setting of Green Lake with the mountains in the distance.



Find and study pictures of the desert landscape, or of dry, mountainous areas in the United States. Nevada, New Mexico or Arizona might be a starting point. Pay close attention not only to the landscape, but also to the colors.

Using whatever art supplies and tools you have available, **recreate one of your favorite landscapes.** You can SKETCH, PAINT or even use CHALK and PASTELS. Remember to consider various techniques to create texture and other effects such as smudging, rubbings, cross-hatching etc.

Sign your name on your creation when it is complete and ready for display.





Activity Four

In the scenes where Stanley and Zero are working together, reference is made to two famous poets, Poe and Wordsworth.

Poetry can range from serious to silly. Gather a variety of poetry books. Skim through, selecting and reading poems you enjoy.

This activity consists of three parts:

- **1. Create a mini-poetry collection** by carefully COPYING, ILLUSTRATING or EMBELLISHING your favorite pieces.
- **2. Next,** select ONE poem from your collection. Practice it aloud until you can read it fluently and with expression.
- **3. Finally,** participate in a class POETRY CAFE where everyone shares their favorite poem!



Activity Five

Bullying is an ongoing problem for many children, inside and outside of school.

- **1. Conduct** some informal research among your classmates, asking them to share their experiences.
 - **2. Research** strategies to deal with bullying.
 - **3.** Based on your findings, **write** several bullying scenarios that can be used as CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKITS.
 - **4. Practice** your scenarios and their accompanying solutions for presentation to your classmates.
 - **5. Create** a list of ANTI-BULLYING STRATEGIES on chart paper or Bristol board so your classmates have a list of strategies to refer to even after your workshop is complete.





Activity Six

In the novel, Zero grew up homeless and poor.

Homelessness and in particular, child poverty are serious problems in our society.

- 1. Research the problem of homelessness and child poverty in our country.
- **2.** Make **jot notes,** including STATISTICS, important FACTS, the EFFECTS, and what is being done to combat these social problems.
 - **3.** Next, **take a stand** on the issue. For example, do you think enough is being done to solve this social problem or not?
 - 4. Write a POSITION PAPER defending your opinion.

Here is an organizer you may want to consider using when planning your position paper.

Introduction:Grabs the reader's attentionYour stand on the issue is made clear.	
 Body: 2 or 3 arguments to support your position Support details and facts are needed for each argument. 	
 Conclusion: Review your main points Leave the reader with a strong impression. 	