



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PABLO CASALS MIDDLE SCHOOL 181

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that your upcoming summer vacation is enjoyable and safe. We expect our students to maintain their literacy skill level during this time. To achieve this goal, the Pablo Casals 181 Literacy Department has mandated summer assignments.

The reading comprehension activities in this packet are based on the following novels:

Holes by Louis Sachar

All assignments can be found on the following site:

<http://welcometo181.weebly.com>

Your child's literacy teacher will collect the summer work the second week of school. This is an essential first step on the path to success at MS 181. The assessments will constitute an important part of the first marking period grade and it is essential that your child complete all summer assignments and submit them on time!

Have a wonderful summer vacation. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kirrane, Assistant Principal, Literacy

Summer Reading: Holes by Louis Sachar

Chapter One

Name: _____

Setting / Draw it (On a separate sheet of paper)!

A "setting" is where something is or where something happens. To describe the setting can also include the time of day, the moods of any people there, and any other details that would help you understand what is happening.

Holes opens with a description of the setting of most of this story.

Draw this setting. Be sure to include each thing on this list, and as many details from the chapter as you can find (be creative about showing what it is like there):

- log cabin
- hammock
- "lake" ("lake" is in quotation marks because something is called a lake, but it's not really a lake)
- scorpions
- rattlesnake
- lizard
- holes

INFERENCES: To infer something (or, make an infer-ence) is to figure something out, or at least make a guess about something. For example, if someone bursts into tears and leaves the room, you could infer that something has upset them. You might even know what it is.

A good inference is not a wild guess. It's based on evidence. Tears are evidence that someone is upset.

If you knew only the name, you might infer that a place called "Camp Green Lake" would have a lake, green plants, and lots of fun things to do. However, the first chapter gives you plenty of evidence to help you infer that Camp Green Lake is not a fun place.

Questions (Please answer on a separate sheet of paper in full sentences):

What are three reasons you could infer that "Camp Green Lake" isn't fun for the campers?

What is one reason you can infer that the Warden is not nice to the campers?

Chapter 8: Draw it (On a separate sheet of paper)!

This chapter describes the nature and needs of the yellow-spotted lizards. Draw some of these lizards in their natural surroundings. Include and label the following:

1. the lizards, with their specific characteristics*
2. where they live (and how many may be there)
3. shade
4. things these lizards eat
5. a predatory bird (i.e., a bird that eats other animals)

Inference Questions (Please answer on a separate sheet of paper):

On page 44, we are introduced to a character named "Caveman." Who does Stanley infer that the Caveman is?

Why does he infer this?

On page 47, Stanley makes a different inference about who the Caveman is. Who is Caveman?

Why does he infer this?

When Stanley shows Mr. Sir the fossil, he immediately tells that the Warden will not be interested in it. Why do you think Stanley thought she might be interested in it?

What is a question Stanley is probably asking himself?

Summer Reading:
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Chapters 15-16:

Theme: Perseverance Questions (Please answer on a separate sheet of paper):

What is something the Warden says or does in this chapter that shows she has perseverance?

Questions (Please answer on a separate sheet of paper):

Stanley now knows why Zigzag did not want to talk about the thing he found at breakfast. Why was that?

What "is certain" to the boys at the end of chapter 15?

What is something they don't know?

What does Stanley learn about Zero in chapter 16?

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Ch. 46 -48

Questions (Please answer on a separate sheet of paper):

Whose name is on the suitcase with the treasure?

Chapter 50

Inference Questions (Please answer on a separate sheet of paper):

Why might somebody infer that Stanley's family had a curse on it, but it was over now?

Who is the lady "sitting in the chair beside Hector" [Zero] and why is she singing the same song that Stanley learned from his parents?