# **Dual Narrative**

A dual narrative is where different, but linked stories are told within one text.

This could be to show different points in time, different places, or different perspectives of the same event.

Holes includes the story of Camp Green Lake in two different time periods. This helps the story make sense.



Louis Sachar

(Pronounced Sacker)

- Born in New York, 1954.
- Moved to California aged 9.
- Door to door salesman until helping at a school, where the children called him "Louis the Yard Teacher". He describes this job as "life changing".
- Went to law school and did legal work until he could afford to write full time.
- Other works include Fuzzy Mud and The Wayside School Stories.

# Year 7 Holes

**Hero Archetype** 

Male, strong, athletic, courageous, confident, chivalrous, a natural leader, superior to 'normal' people. Faces danger alone and readily. Willing to sacrifice self for others. Has a 'quest', achieves personal growth. Examples: Superman, Batman, Prince Charming.

# **Stanley**

Stanley is the protagonist of *Holes*, although he is an unlikely hero. He is an overweight boy who does not have any friends from school and is often picked on by his classmates and the school bully, Derrick Dunne. Stanley's family is cursed with bad luck and although they do not have much money, they always try to remain hopeful and look on the bright side of things. Stanley shares these traits with his family and although he does not have a lot of self-confidence, he is not easily depressed, a characteristic that helps him adjust to the horrendous conditions of Camp Green Lake.

# When Miss Katherine became Kissin Kate

The first Stanley Yelnats lost his entire fortune when he was robbed by "the **outlaw** Kissin' Kate Barlow".

One hundred and ten years before Stanley went to Camp Green Lake; Miss Katherine had been the kind schoolmistress who fell in love with Sam the onion seller. They were seen sharing a kiss. As Sam was black, the people of the town burned the school down and killed Sam.

Katherine shot the sheriff and "for the next 20 years Kissin' Kate Barlow was one of the most feared outlaws in all the West".

# **Key Vocabulary**

protagonist
legacy
stereotype
archetype
superstition
marginalised
camaraderie

# Zero

Real name: Hector Zeroni

- Tough upbringing, abandoned
- Good with numbers but can't read or write
- Best at digging holes
- Black
- Smallest in group D
- His smile seems "too big for his face"
- Thought to be unintelligent.

The Story of Madame Zeroni and Elya Yelnats
Elya Yelnats (Stanley's no good dirty rotten pig
stealing great great grandfather) went to Madame
Zeroni for advice. Madame Zeroni is a mystical
character. "When she looked at you her eyes
seemed to expand, and you felt like she was
looking right through you." She was in a
wheelchair, with a missing left foot.

MZ told Elya his future was in America, not with Myra. However, she agreed to help him, giving him a runt piglet. She tells him to carry it up the mountain, let it drink and sing a song every day. After giving the pig for Myra's hand, he must carry MZ up the mountain, so she can drink and be sung the song. He didn't, meaning "he and his descendants would be doomed for all eternity"

## **Other Characters**

#### Mr Sir

Mean, sunflower seed eating counsellor at CGL.

#### Mr Pendanski

Also a counsellor at CGL, seems slightly kinder, but nasty to Zero. Nicknamed 'Mom'.

## **Other Boys**

- X-Ray
- Squid
- Zigzag
- Armpit
- Magnet

# Jim Crow

Jim Crow was the nickname given to the idea of racial segregation in America in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

It meant black people had to be separated from white people at school, on transport, at parks, beaches and in public housing.

#### **Prison Camp**

a camp for the confinement of prisoners of war or political prisoners. a camp for less dangerous prisoners assigned to outdoor work, usually for the government.

'Camp'

# **Summer Camp**

(especially in North America) a camp providing recreational and sporting facilities for children during the summer holiday period.

