

Holes

VOCABULARY

Chapters 1 - 7	Student-friendly definition
forbid (p.3)	when you order that something is not allowed
shrivel (p.3)	when something dries up and shrinks into wrinkles
hover (p.3)	when someone says the opposite of what they mean in order to mock or tease
wasteland (p.3)	when an area is so ruined and empty that almost nothing can live there
mock (p.4)	when you make fun of someone in a cruel or teasing way
stifle (p.6)	when the air is so hot and heavy that it is hard to breathe
convict (p.7)	when a court officially decides that a person is guilty of a crime
gruff (p.8)	when someone's voice or manner is rough, low, and unfriendly
persevere (p.8)	when you keep working at something difficult and refuse to give up
fortune (p.9)	when someone owns a very large amount of wealth
discourage (p.9)	when you make someone lose confidence or the will to keep trying
neglect (p.9)	when you fail to take care of someone or something you are responsible for
outlaw (p.9)	when someone is a criminal on the run from the law
barren (p.11)	when land is so dry and bare that almost nothing will grow on it
desolate (p.11)	when a place is empty, lonely, and without any sign of life

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Chapters 1 - 7	Student-friendly definition
correctional (p.12)	when a place or program is meant to punish and reform people who broke the law
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juvenile (p.12)	when someone is a young person who is not yet an adult

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Chapters 1 - 7	Student-friendly definition
mutter (p.35)	when you speak quietly and unclearly, often while complaining
expanse (p.36)	when a wide, open area stretches out with nothing to break it up
gesture (p.36)	when you move your hand or head to express something without words
stagger (p.36)	when you walk so unsteadily you almost fall
grimace (p.39)	when you twist your face to show pain, disgust, or dislike

Chapters 8 - 18	Student-friendly definition
predatory (p.42)	when an animal or person survives by hunting and preying on others
evaporate (p.43)	when a liquid slowly turns into vapor and disappears into the air
sprawl (p.43)	when you sit or lie with your arms and legs spread out carelessly
radiate (p.45)	when heat, light, or energy spreads outward from a source
scowl (p.46)	when you frown in an angry or bad-tempered way
fossil (p.50)	when the hardened remains of a living thing are preserved in rock
senseless (p.54)	when an action has no purpose, meaning, or good reason
smug (p.54)	when someone is annoyingly too pleased with themselves
glisten (p.60)	when a wet or smooth surface shines and sparkles with light
engrave (p.60)	when you pass a loose material through a mesh to separate or search it
etch (p.61)	when you scratch or carve a mark into a surface

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Chapters 8 - 18	Student-friendly definition
pierce (p.65)	when something sharp goes into or through an object
haze (p.65)	when a thin mist of dust, smoke, or heat makes it hard to see clearly
intent (p.73)	when you are concentrating hard and fully focused on something
startle (p.75)	when something sudden makes you jump in surprise
evict (p.75)	when you force someone to leave a home or property
gash (p.78)	when a deep, long cut is made in something
callus (p.80)	when a patch of skin turns thick and hard after being rubbed many times
throb (p.81)	when a part of your body beats with steady, painful pressure
penetrate (p.82)	when something makes its way into or through something else

Chapters 19 - 28	Student-friendly definition
awaken (p.83)	when you wake up or are stirred into action
fume (p.84)	when a strong, harmful gas or smoke rises into the air
unthinkable (p.86)	when something is too shocking or terrible to imagine
condemn (p.88)	when you officially declare that someone must be punished
venom (p.90)	when a poison is made by an animal to injure what it bites or stings
agony (p.91)	when you feel extreme physical or mental pain
clutch (p.91)	when you grab and hold onto something tightly

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Chapters 19 - 28	Student-friendly definition
recede (p.91)	when something moves back or fades slowly into the distance
shrill (p.91)	when a sound is very high, sharp, and piercing
writhe (p.91)	when you twist your body because of pain or discomfort
memorize (p.97)	when you learn something so well you can repeat it without looking
reconsider (p.99)	when you think about a decision again to see if you should change it
astonish (p.100)	when something surprises you so much you can hardly believe it
jolt (p.100)	when a sudden sharp movement or shock jerks you
afflict (p.102)	when a sickness or trouble causes someone lasting suffering
incurable (p.102)	when a disease or problem cannot be cured or fixed
spew (p.103)	when something pours or is forced out in a fast, gushing stream
jagged (p.104)	when an edge is rough and uneven with sharp points
grotesque (p.105)	when something looks so strange or ugly that it is disturbing
parch (p.106)	when something is completely dried out from heat or lack of water
concoct (p.108)	when you make a mixture by combining several odd ingredients
digest (p.108)	when your body breaks down food so it can be used for energy
resent (p.108)	when you feel bitter or angry about something you think is unfair
quiver (p.111)	when something shakes with small, quick, trembling movements

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Chapters 19 - 28	Student-friendly definition
drawl (p.113)	when you speak slowly, stretching out the vowels in your words
spare (p.116)	when you use only a little of something so it lasts
vile (p.118)	when something is extremely unpleasant, disgusting, or evil
rummage (p.121)	when you search through a space by moving things around messily
loot (p.121)	when you steal money or goods, especially during chaos

Chapters 29 - 49	Student-friendly definition
drench (p.127)	when something becomes completely soaked with liquid
unbearable (p.127)	when something is too painful or unpleasant to put up with
humid (p.127)	when the air is heavy and damp with moisture
deprive (p.131)	when you keep someone from having something they need
feeble (p.135)	when someone or something is very weak and lacking strength
flurry (p.135)	when a sudden burst of fast activity happens all at once
strangle (p.136)	when you squeeze someone's throat so they cannot breathe
motionless (p.147)	when someone or something stays completely still
lurch (p.148)	when you make a sudden, uneven movement to one side
nothingness (p.151)	when a space is completely empty and void
mirage (p.152):	when heat makes you see something in the distance that is not really there

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Chapters 19 - 28	Student-friendly definition
shimmer (p.152)	when something shines with a soft, wavering light
grim (p.154)	when something is harsh, gloomy, and without cheer
strain (p.156)	when you push your body or mind hard past its comfortable limit
ventilate (p.156)	when you move fresh air through a space to keep it breathable
nectar (p.157)	when a plant makes a sweet liquid that attracts insects and birds
tremble (p.164)	when you shake slightly from fear, cold, or weakness
frail (p.164)	when someone or something is weak and easily broken or hurt
interweave (p.165)	when two or more things are twisted or laced tightly together
protrude (p.165)	when something sticks out past the surface around it
increment (p.167)	when something increases by one small, regular amount at a time
swarm (p.168)	when a large group of insects or people moves together in a mass
wrench (p.168)	when you twist or pull something suddenly with force
precipice (p.171)	when a steep cliff drops off sharply to a great depth
resemble (p.171)	when one thing looks or seems similar to another
gully (p.171)	when rushing water has cut a deep, narrow channel into the ground
intertwine (p.177)	when two or more things twist closely around each other
indent (p.181)	when a dent or notch is pressed into a surface

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Chapters 19 - 28	Student-friendly definition
contaminate (p.182)	when you make something dirty or unsafe by adding harmful matter
murky (p.182)	when water or air is dark, cloudy, and hard to see through
fugitive (p.188)	when someone is running away to avoid being captured
inexplicable (p.190)	when something cannot be explained or understood
abrupt (p.195)	when something happens suddenly and without warning
indistinct (p.196)	when something is unclear and hard to see or hear
cradle (p.197)	when you hold something gently and protectively in your arms
sliver (p.198)	when a thin, narrow piece is broken or cut from something
exhale (p.199)	when you breathe air out of your lungs
budge (p.201)	when something moves slightly from a fixed position
commotion (p.205)	when there is sudden noisy confusion or excitement
illuminate (p.205)	when you light something up so it can be seen
frantic (p.207)	when you are wild with worry, fear, or hurry
flinch (p.207)	when you make a quick, small movement away from something painful or scary
shatter (p.207)	when something breaks suddenly into many pieces
scurry (p.207)	when you move quickly with short, hurried steps
strenuous (p.210)	when a task takes great effort and energy

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Chapters 19 - 28	Student-friendly definition
fascinate (p.212)	when something holds your interest so strongly you cannot look away
numb (p.212)	when a part of your body loses all feeling
hallucinate (p.215)	when you see or hear something that is not actually there
disbelief (p.216)	when you cannot accept that something is real or true
belongings (p.217)	when the personal possessions someone owns are taken as a group
detainee (p.218)	when someone is being held in custody and not allowed to leave
hysterical (p.218)	when someone is so upset or excited they cannot control themselves
urgency (p.219)	when something needs to be dealt with right away
outrage (p.220)	when you feel or cause fierce anger at something unfair or shocking
incarcerate (p.222)	when you lock someone up in a prison
eliminate (p.225)	when you completely remove or get rid of something

Chapters 50	Student-friendly definition
tedious (p.230)	when something is so slow and dull it becomes tiring
neutralize (p.232)	when you stop something from having its effect