**Narrative Texts**

***Holes***

Sachar, L. (1998). *Holes*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Stanley Yelnats is not known for being lucky; in fact all the Yelnatses are under a curse. Because of this curse Stanley is constantly ending up in the wrong place at the wrong time, which is exactly how he ended up in Camp Green Lake. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake, but there are a lot of holes. At Camp Green Lake the boy are required to dig a hole every day that is five feet deep and five feet wide. Stanley tries to dig up the truth as to what’s buried underneath the dried up lake, meeting some interesting people along the why, like Squid, X-Ray, Magnet, Armpit, Zig Zag, and Zero.

***Small Steps***

Sachar, L. (2006). *Small steps*. New York: Delacorte Press.

*Small Steps* is the follow up to *Holes*, it follows Armpit who is now seventeen and no longer at Camp Green Lake. He seems to be doing well and on the right path, that is until X-Ray shows. X-Ray tells him about ticket-scalping, a get rich quick scheme, and Armpit’s life quickly seems to spin out of control, and all he can do is tell himself to “just take small steps and keep moving forward”.

***Stanley Yelnats’ Survival Guide to Camp Green Lake***

Sachar, L. (2003). *Stanley Yelnats' Survival Guide to Camp Green Lake*. New York: Dell Yearling.

*Stanley Yelnats’ Survival Guide to Camp Green Lake* is essentially a guide to surviving your time at Camp Green Lake, told by Stanley Yelnats. Stanley recounts some of his own experiences from when he was attending Camp Green Lake. This guide also offers advice on how to dig the perfect hole, how to identify as well as avoid the wildlife and how to help make your time at Camp Green Lake a more pleasant experience.

***The Cardturner***

Sachar, L. (2010). *The Cardturner*. New York: Delacorte Press.

*The Cardturner* follows Alton Richards who just lost his girlfriend to his best friend. His mother forces him to spend time with his very rich, and blind, Uncle Lester. Alton becomes a “cardturner,” and helps his Uncle Lester play bridge, a complicated card game. Alton tells his uncle what cards Uncle Lester has in his hand and Alton plays the cards as his uncle tells him too. But Alton has his sights set on something else, more like someone else, the beautiful but also possibly insane, Toni Castaneda. But the dark secrets of the past may distort any chance of happiness in the present.

**Expository Texts**

***Droughts***

Park, L. (2007). *Droughts*. North Mankato, MN: Smart Apple Media.

*Droughts*, a book from the “Natural Disasters” series explains the causes and effects of droughts all over the world, in all different types of climates. This book goes into detail on several different types of effects on the world that droughts cause, including, famines and dust storms. The detailed pictures and illustrations enhance the book and make the concept of droughts more concrete and easier to grasp and understand. The diagrams, glossary, graphs and historic photographs also help catch attention and keep you interested.

***Lizards***

Marsh, L. (2012). *Lizards*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society.

*Lizards* is an informational book from National Geographic and explains all different characteristics of different types of lizards. Some of the interesting characteristics included in this book are different habitats, coloring, including camouflage and whether a lizard is poisonous, like the fictitious yellow spotted lizards in *Holes*. The pictures and texts make for an easy to follow and high interest book, great to introduce or expand a child’s interest in lizards.

**Student Websites**

<http://animals.pawnation.com/yellow-spotted-lizard-3887.html>

While the yellow spotted lizards in *Holes* are fictitious there is a yellow-spotted night lizard found in Central America. This website provides key facts and information about the yellow-spotted night lizard. These lizards are so reclusive and rare to find scientists are still unsure about the how many of these lizards there are in Central America. This site has information about these lizards including their diet, habitat and description.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEvLRtDKT0c>

The trailer to the movie *Holes*, which would go along with watching the whole movie, introduces the plot and all of the main characters from the book. The movie, while slightly different from the book, can be used to make more concrete visual connections and deepen understanding of the story and plot. Watching this trailer will further the interest of students into the story and characters and make them more excited to read along and find out the big mystery at Camp Green Lake.

**Teacher Websites**

<http://www.webenglishteacher.com/holes.html>

This website has several other links to things teachers can use with this book. This site has lesson plans for teachers to use that go along with the novel, a teacher guide for the book, graphic organizers, key questions, including vocabulary, to ask the students as the read the novel as well as a discussion guide. This site also has numerous post reading ideas and discussion topics to have with the students after completing the book. It also has chapter summaries to refresh students, and teachers, before reading the next chapter and to review before tests and quizzes. This is an excellent site to use to obtain and expand on any ideas and possible discussions and vocabulary that go along with the novel.

<http://www.resourceroom.net/comprehension/literature/holes/holescomp.asp>

This website has a breakdown of each chapter, along with different lessons to do as you read the chapters. The information found on this site can be used to make a unit packet for students to use throughout the reading of the novel. It also has online components, including an online multiple choice quizzes for each chapter, and a study guide to use for review of the whole novel. This website also has several different graphic organizers for teachers and students to use to help follow the different storylines in the novel, and provide clear understanding and order of events in the novel.