



Holes

by Louis Sachar

Power Vocabulary List

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ADVISE*

Pronunciation ad-vize

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to give someone information or suggestions

Word Used in Context

“Douse your cooking fire and all lanterns,” the camp counselor would always **advise**.

Rose’s counselor tried to **advise** her to find a healthy outlet for her anger, such as art or dance.

Annie’s mother would **advise** her to include all of her classmates on the guest list for her birthday party.

AUTHORITY

Pronunciation uh-thor-uh-tee

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 the right to do something or to tell other people what to do

Word Used in Context

Because she was the president of the club, she had the **authority** to speak whenever she wanted to.

The king abused his **authority** by using tax money to buy himself fine things rather than using it to help the people.

In a school, the principal usually has the most **authority**.

BACTERIA*

Pronunciation bak-tih-ee-uh

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 microscopic living things that exist all around you and inside you

Word Used in Context

Most illnesses are caused by microscopic **bacteria** that come into contact with the body.

Experiments with green algae and **bacteria** have been found to break down chemicals in water.

Excess fertilizer may kill the soil **bacteria** that are so important in making more topsoil.

COINCIDENCE

Pronunciation koh-in-si-duhns

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 a chance happening or meeting

Word Used in Context

She thought it was a **coincidence** that he showed up at the restaurant while she was there, but he later admitted that he knew she would be there and came just to see her.

Jake told his mother that it was a **coincidence** that right when she called, the phone rang on the movie he was watching.

It was a **coincidence** that when her car broke down on the side of the road, one of her friends was driving by and stopped to help.

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COLLAPSE

Pronunciation kuh-laps

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to fall down suddenly from weakness or illness

Word Used in Context

Every time a slight breeze came through, Sally's house of cards would **collapse**.

From the weight of the falling snow on its roof, the old barn will surely **collapse**.

During earthquakes, buildings often **collapse** and fall to the ground.

COMPREHEND

Pronunciation kom-pri-hend

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to understand

Word Used in Context

Joyce could not **comprehend** the Spanish lesson and had to ask her teacher for help after class.

The teacher tried to explain the concept slowly so that all of the students would **comprehend** it.

Allie's father could not **comprehend** her dislike for chocolate since so many children like it.

CONVINCE*

Pronunciation kuhn-vinss

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to overcome by argument

Word Used in Context

The suspect was able to **convince** the judge that he did not commit the crime because he had proof that he had been somewhere else that night.

It was difficult to **convince** the teacher to let the students have class outside, but because it was such a beautiful day, she allowed it.

Even though she tried to act brave, she didn't **convince** anyone because they knew she had always been a timid and nervous person.

DECISION*

Pronunciation di-sizh-uhn

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 a determination arrived at after consideration

Word Used in Context

She had to make a **decision** about whether she wanted chicken or beef for dinner before the waiter returned.

She made a **decision** to focus on her studies so she would make better grades.

Arnold finally made a **decision** about where he wanted to go on vacation.

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DESOLATE

Pronunciation **dess**-uh-luht

Part of Speech adjective

Definition 1 deserted or uninhabited

Word Used in Context

After her best friend moved away, she felt **desolate** and lonely.

The desert was so **desolate** that he could only hear the sound of his own breathing.

Margie expected to find a crowd at the gym, but it was **desolate** and empty.

DESPERATE*

Pronunciation **dess**-pur-it

Part of Speech adjective

Definition 1 suffering extreme need or anxiety

Word Used in Context

Mira was **desperate** to find a solution to the problem that had bothered her for weeks.

He made a **desperate** attempt to catch the falling bird's nest, but it hit the ground.

After a week of living in the uncomfortable camp cabin, she was **desperate** to go home and sleep in her own bed.

DIZZY*

Pronunciation **diz**-ee

Part of Speech adjective

Definition 1 having a whirling sensation in the head with a tendency to fall

Word Used in Context

After she got off of the amusement park ride, she felt **dizzy**.

Her mother told her that if she kept twirling around, she would get **dizzy**.

The medication made him **dizzy**, and he often had to sit down to clear his head.

INGREDIENT

Pronunciation in-**gree**-dee-uhnt

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 one of the items that something is made from, such as an item of food in a recipe

Word Used in Context

My mother swore she would never divulge her secret **ingredient** for her famous chili.

Not surprisingly, corn was the principal **ingredient** in most of the early New England recipes.

The main **ingredient** in the bread was flour, which was obtained by grinding grain in stone mills.

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MIRAGE

Pronunciation muh-**razh**

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 something that you think you see in the distance, such as water, that is not really there

Word Used in Context

A person in the desert will often see a **mirage**, thinking there is water there when there isn't.

He was so desperate to be at home that a **mirage** of his childhood house rose before him in the barren landscape where he was hiking.

The **mirage** looked like a beautiful cool lake, but ahead of them was only desert sand.

MISERABLE*

Pronunciation **miz**-ur-uh-buhl

Part of Speech adjective

Definition 1 sad, unhappy, or dejected

Word Used in Context

Summer camp was a **miserable** experience because of the terrible sunburn she got.

The campers felt **miserable** in their wet clothes, having nowhere to get shelter from the rain.

The party was **miserable** because everyone complained about the food.

PATIENCE*

Pronunciation **pay**-shuhnss

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 the ability to put up with problems and delays without getting angry or upset

Word Used in Context

Elizabeth had a bad temper and had to work on improving her **patience**.

Her **patience** with the children made her a popular teacher.

He knew he would have to have a lot of **patience** to put together the tiny parts of the model airplane.

PRY

Pronunciation **pry**e

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to remove, raise, or pull apart with force, as with a lever

Word Used in Context

She tried to **pry** the secret door open with a screwdriver, but it wouldn't budge.

In order to get the passengers out of the wreckage, Tim had to **pry** the car door open.

Anna liked to sit beside her favorite tree while she thought, and **pry** little pieces of bark from its trunk.

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SOCIETY*

Pronunciation suh-**sy**e-uh-tee

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 all people, or people as a group

Word Used in Context

Many words evolve over the centuries and reflect the changes in human **society**.

Jon met all of the criteria for getting into the honor **society** by making high grades and participating in sports.

Sometimes people wear expensive clothes to show their high status or rank in **society**.

SURVIVE

Pronunciation sur-**vive**

Part of Speech verb

Definition 1 to continue to live or exist

Word Used in Context

It was a shipwreck so disastrous and so fatal that no passenger could **survive**.

Divers can **survive** underwater by breathing oxygen stored in their tanks.

Some dogs have a heavy coat of fur and can **survive** in very cold weather.

TASK*

Pronunciation **task**

Part of Speech noun

Definition 1 a piece of work to be done, especially work assigned by another person

Word Used in Context

The teacher gave her students the **task** of finding things in the room that were shaped like a square.

Washing dishes was a **task** that she never enjoyed.

Her **task** as a photographer was to capture beautiful images on film.

TEDIOUS

Pronunciation **tee**-dee-uhss

Part of Speech adjective

Definition 1 tiring and boring

Word Used in Context

Her homework was so **tedious** that she had to take a break halfway through.

Organizing the file cabinets was a **tedious** task because there were so many documents.

She was such an avid gardener that she even enjoyed the **tedious** work of pulling out weeds.

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Power Vocabulary Activity



W S U R V I V E I T A S K D
A H O C O N V I N C E W M I
A D S T H B E B G U S L I Z
L Y V M W A H P R Y O T S Z
D C O I N C I D E N C E E Y
E P O R S T T O D R I D R C
S A M A E E N T I E E I A O
P T D G S R T A E N T O B L
E I L E E I Y A N T Y U L L
R E S C H A O O T L D S E A
A N D E C I S I O N E R R P
T C C O M P R E H E N D I S
E E C A U T H O R I T Y K E
D D E S O L A T E U N N E I

Directions: For each vocabulary word below, circle it in the letter grid above—up and down, across, backwards or diagonally. Going across each row starting at the top left, place each unused letter on a blank until you reveal the hidden message.

ADVISE	COMPREHEND	DIZZY	PRY
AUTHORITY	CONVINCE	INGREDIENT	SOCIETY
BACTERIA	DECISION	MIRAGE	SURVIVE
COINCIDENCE	DESOLATE	MISERABLE	TASK
COLLAPSE	DESPERATE	PATIENCE	TEDIOUS

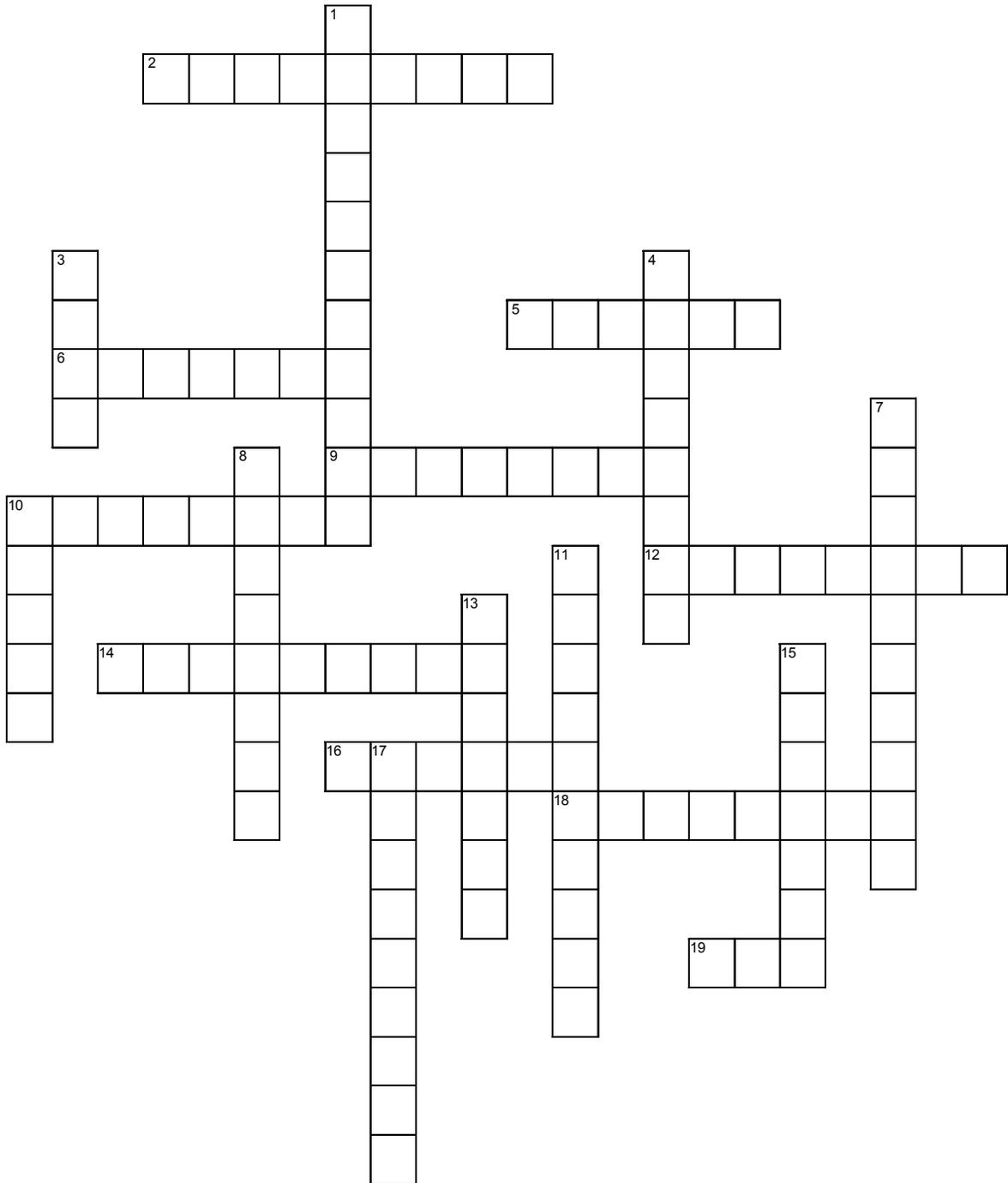
Hidden Message:

_____ ? _____

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ADVISE	COMPREHEND	DIZZY	PRY
AUTHORITY	CONVINCE	INGREDIENT	SOCIETY
BACTERIA	DECISION	MIRAGE	SURVIVE
COINCIDENCE	DESOLATE	MISERABLE	TASK
COLLAPSE	DESPERATE	PATIENCE	TEDIOUS

Across

- the right to do something or to tell other people what to do
- something that you think you see in the distance, such as water, that is not really there
- to continue to live or exist
- to overcome by argument
- deserted or uninhabited
- to fall down suddenly from weakness or illness
- sad, unhappy, or dejected
- to give someone information or suggestions
- a determination arrived at after consideration
- to remove, raise, or pull apart with force, as with a lever

Down

- a chance happening or meeting
- a piece of work to be done, especially work assigned by another person
- the ability to put up with problems and delays without getting angry or upset
- to understand
- microscopic living things that exist all around you and inside you
- having a whirling sensation in the head with a tendency to fall
- one of the items that something is made from, such as an item of food in a recipe
- tiring and boring
- all people, or people as a group
- suffering extreme need or anxiety

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Power Vocabulary Activity



Directions: For each vocabulary word in the left column, locate its definition in the right column. Write the number of the correct definition in the blank before the word.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| advise | 1. to fall down suddenly from weakness or illness |
| authority | 2. to understand |
| bacteria | 3. a determination arrived at after consideration |
| coincidence | 4. to give someone information or suggestions |
| collapse | 5. all people, or people as a group |
| comprehend | 6. something that you think you see in the distance, such as water, that is not really there |
| convince | 7. to overcome by argument |
| decision | 8. microscopic living things that exist all around you and inside you |
| desolate | 9. a chance happening or meeting |
| desperate | 10. the ability to put up with problems and delays without getting angry or upset |
| dizzy | 11. sad, unhappy, or dejected |
| ingredient | 12. deserted or uninhabited |
| mirage | 13. to remove, raise, or pull apart with force, as with a lever |
| miserable | 14. one of the items that something is made from, such as an item of food in a recipe |
| patience | 15. a piece of work to be done, especially work assigned by another person |
| pry | 16. tiring and boring |
| society | 17. having a whirling sensation in the head with a tendency to fall |
| survive | 18. suffering extreme need or anxiety |
| task | 19. the right to do something or to tell other people what to do |
| tedious | 20. to continue to live or exist |

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Power Vocabulary Assessment



Directions: Now that you have completed *Holes*, it's time to see if you can use the Power Vocabulary Words you learned while reading this book. Look at each of the sentences below and fill in the Power Vocabulary Word that would best complete the sentence.

ADVISE	COMPREHEND	DIZZY	PRY
AUTHORITY	CONVINCE	INGREDIENT	SOCIETY
BACTERIA	DECISION	MIRAGE	SURVIVE
COINCIDENCE	DESOLATE	MISERABLE	TASK
COLLAPSE	DESPERATE	PATIENCE	TEDIOUS

1. Her father was strict but kind, and she never questioned his _____ when he told her to do something.
2. He was a _____ man who yelled at anyone who came near his house.
3. The streets were _____ during the storm because everyone decided to stay inside and not go anywhere.
4. Renee tried to _____ the lid from the can of tuna, but realized that she would probably need a can opener.
5. Lana danced so enthusiastically that she was _____ when she sat down.
6. The mother had _____ with her small child while he was learning to feed himself, and encouraged him to keep trying.
7. People ran from the buildings as they started to _____.
8. She was so _____ for ice cream that she drove to the store in the middle of a storm to get some.
9. Antibiotics are medications that kill harmful _____ that invade the body.
10. The lawyer had to _____ the jury that the incident was just an accident and that his client didn't intend to do any harm.
11. Their mother would always _____ her children to try to look at the positive things in every situation.
12. No living creature can _____ without water.
13. Frank's weekly _____ was mowing the lawn, while his brother's was trimming the hedges.
14. She was so thirsty that she wished the _____ were real and that she could drink its water.
15. The play was long and _____, and not very interesting.
16. The sweet potato became a popular _____ in colonial cooking because it was so abundant.
17. Although they both wore the same outfit that day, it was just a _____, and nothing planned.
18. Jake did not _____ all of the lecture, but understood enough to get the main ideas.
19. They were a peaceful _____ that never engaged in conflict with other people.
20. Emily though the _____ about whether or not to join the swim team was an easy one.