English 7 – Summer Reading Guide
Holes by Louis Sachar

****This Reading Guide is meant to be a resource to help as you read over the summer. You are not expected to come into class with these answers filled out on the first day, but it will be helpful for you to look at this as you read and use it as you prepare for your summer reading assessment that your teacher will assign after the first day of classes.****

Stanley Yelnats was unjustly convicted of a crime he didn't commit and is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention center in the desert. There, he is forced to dig holes all day, every day. Stanley soon realizes that the digging is more than just a punishment and that it's linked to a family curse and a buried treasure. He is forced to confront his family history, learn hard lessons about friendship, and make decisions that push him way beyond his comfort zone. Here are a few ideas to turn a joyful reading into an insightful one, too.

1. Stanley's "No Good, Dirty Rotten, Pig-Stealing Great-Great Grandfather gets blamed for his family's hardships, but how does Stanley eventually overcome this?

2. How does Stanley's friendship with Zero shape his journey at Camp Green Lake? How does their relationship challenge the idea of social hierarchy and power dynamics?

3. How is the concept of "justice" presented in the novel? Think about Stanley's wrongful conviction, Sam's murder, and Kate Barlow's revenge.

4. What are some ways that this story comes "full circle"?

5. This story is full of symbolism. What are some symbols that stood out to you and how did they represent something deeper than what they look like on the surface?