



# HOLES: THE MOVIE VS. THE BOOK

**GRADE LEVEL:** 5–8**SUBJECT:** Language Arts**DURATION:** One 40-minute class period**NATIONAL STANDARDS:** Language Arts, Standard 6: Applying knowledge**MATERIALS:** *Holes* (both the movie and the book), student worksheet*Use this worksheet to help students compare and contrast the movie and the book.*

## DESCRIPTION

The movie *Holes* is based on the Newbery award winning novel of the same title by Louis Sachar. The process of bringing a novel to the big screen is extremely complicated. In the case of *Holes*, director Andy Davis, a huge fan of the book, wanted to be as faithful as possible to the story. Davis asked Sachar not only to write the screenplay but also to be a consultant on the set during filming.

## OBJECTIVES

- To examine similarities and differences between a novel and a feature film
- To identify and support aspects of the novel and film that students like best
- To articulate specific recommendations for an author or screenwriter to improve a story

## ADAPTATIONS

For younger students, divide the class into small groups to complete the worksheet or forego the worksheet and have students fill out a Venn diagram comparing the book and movie. Challenge students by asking them to write reviews of the book and the movie. Collect the reviews and publish them as a newspaper.

## ASSESSMENT

Design a five-point rubric to assess students on the sentence structure, organization, supporting evidence, and comprehensiveness of their responses.

## EXTENSIONS

Ask students to design posters for both the book and the movie. How would they be portrayed differently with words and images?

Have students use their answer to the last statement to rewrite either a scene from the book or the movie with their changes.

## PROCEDURES

1. Begin class by reading aloud the description of Stanley in Chapter 3.
2. Ask students how the description of Stanley in the book compares with the actor who is portraying him in the movie. Discuss why the filmmakers might have made these decisions.
3. Pass out the worksheet and have students compare and contrast the book and the movie. Then have the students recommend improvements.



## USEFUL RESOURCES

Comparison/Contrast Essays, LEO: Literacy Education Online: <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/comparcontrast.html>

Newspaper Compare/Contrast, by Matthew Brinkman, An AskERIC Lesson Plan: <http://eric.syr.edu/Virtual/Lessons/Interdisciplinary/INT0048.html>

*Ready to Write More: From Paragraph to Essay*, by Karen Blanchard and Christine Root, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1997.



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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### INSTRUCTIONS

The movie *Holes* is based on the book of the same title by Louis Sachar. Use this worksheet to compare and contrast the book and the movie. First, jot down ideas about how the two versions of the story are similar. Then note the differences between the two. Use the back of this worksheet if necessary.

*Holes, the movie*

### SIMILARITIES

*Holes, the book*

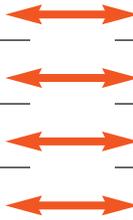
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### DIFFERENCES



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Respond to the statements and questions below. Make sure you explain your answers.

The part in the movie that I liked best. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The part in the book that I liked best. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which do you think was better, the book or the movie? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explain specific changes you would make to improve the book and/or the movie. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_