September 18, 2015

Dear Mr. V,

I am reading Holes by Louis Sachar. It’s about a boy named Stanley Yelnats who gets sent to a camp that is more like a prison. He was charged with a crime he didn’t commit. I love this book so far, but one thing that is confusing is how the author uses flashback to tell about another story that happened in the past with Stanley’s ancestor.

Sachar has a great style of writing. I’ve read his other books like There’s a boy in the girl’s bathroom and the *Wayside Stories* series, but this one is not quite as funny. Instead, it’s got a more complex plot with some funny parts mixed in.

My favorite part so far was the opening chapter when it described the dried up lake and mentioned rattlesnakes and yellow-spotted lizards. I’m afraid of snakes, but it sounds like those lizards are even worse!

So far, I would rank this book a 9/10. I love it, but it’s a bit confusing at times with the different characters. One of the character’s names is Arm Pit, though, and I think that’s pretty funny. I think most boys in grades 4-6 would like this book because it’s got some action and good cliffhangers. Girls would like this book, too, but most of the characters in the book are boys.

I wonder if Stanley will ever get out of this camp. Will anybody actually find something in a hole they dig? Will the warden get a little nicer? Will Zero and Stanley become friends? I have a bunch of questions that I hope I find some answers to in the next couple of chapters.

Your student,

Bob Dylan