Holes
Plot Roulette Game

At the end of the book Holes, whilst digging his final hole in a dried-up lake bed, Stanley Yelnats finds something that would appear almost impossible: *a suitcase with his own name on it.* However, the whole plot of the story has been carefully leading up to this moment. So much so, that it makes complete sense to the reader who has been paying attention!

In this game, we practice explaining unusual events and using this as a foundation for writing an entertaining story.

Plot Roulette

You will need: **Paper and a list of settings and objects.**
You can use the settings and objects from this page but part of the fun is making up some of your own. These can be unusual in and of themselves (like *a teddy bear full of diamonds*) or just odd to find in the context (like *your own report from school*, but found inside a newspaper at the airport).

Objective: **Get student to challenge themselves with the plot of their creative writing.**

Method: **Make your pick.**
After writing on paper and folding, so you can't see what's written, put the Settings in one bowl and the Objects in another. Get the student to pull out one of each

Plan a story.
How did the object get to the place? You should award points for the most believable story. The explanation should make complete logical sense, even if it is convoluted and unlikely.

Example: I pick **setting**: a hole in my garden
object: a photo of me on my last holidays

I think, how would there be a hole in the garden:
dog burying things?
workmen laying cables?
Dad gardening?

I decide to choose the explanation with the *workmen*. So, my story is that my family had a new art studio put at the bottom of our garden and workmen came to bury electricity cables. Whilst taking boxes from the old shed to prepare her art studio, my mum carried an old photo album and a photograph fell into the trench dug by the electricians. This was then buried along with the cables.

Plot Ideas

You should definitely pick your own settings and objects for this game but, to get you started, here are some that I have made up for you. Good luck coming up with some creative explanations behind these!

Setting	_Object_
A hole in the garden	A photograph of you from your last summer holiday
Up a tree in the park	A set of false teeth
In a locked drawer in your classroom	A ringing mobile phone
Under the seat of a rented car	A glass eye
In your grandmother's attic	A live fish in a bowl