

**Classroom Guide to  
“The Earthologist’s Apprentice”**

**By Lana Krumwiede**

**from RIVER CITY SECRETS: STORIES FROM RICHMOND**

Vocabulary

expedition	petrification
foliage	spindly
relic	bray
wary	pigment
afflictions	emblazoned
primeval	prominently

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think Ocurr has made a wise career choice? Why or why not?
2. The location is not named for this story. What Richmond location do you think Ocurr Theward has discovered? Give evidence for your theory using clues from the story and other places in the book.
3. In this story, the future names of places have changed. Why do you think names change over long periods of time? What might your neighborhood be called in the future? What about your school?

Suggested Activities

1. Choose an actual place with which you are very familiar. Imagine Ocurr Theward discovering the ruins of that place in the far distant future. Describe what Ocurr sees and how he might interpret his discovery.
2. Using the descriptions from the story, draw what you think a page from Ocurr’s sketchbook might look like.
3. Read about archaeological digs in Virginia at [Historic Jamestowne](http://HistoricJamestowne.com) and report your findings to the class.

Note: Teachers can email student’s work to [richmondchildrenswriters@gmail.com](mailto:richmondchildrenswriters@gmail.com) and we’ll add it to our website. We’d love to hear about the further adventures of Ocurr Theward. Check the website periodically to read about new places Ocurr has discovered and see if you can guess what they are.