

Classroom Guide to “Bounce Back”

By A. B. Westrick

From RIVER CITY SECRETS: STORIES FROM RICHMOND

Vocabulary

authorize

hoist

cemetery

infantryman

cicada

penmanship

excavator

pillar

gravely

wrought

Discussion Questions

1. What does the code “Roger that” mean, and who uses it? Name other code words that people sometimes use, and tell what they mean.
2. Think about the layout of streets near your school. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the way the roads connect? If you could plan a city, how might you lay the streets out?
3. The story mentions the Hippodrome Theater and popular musical acts of the 1950s: Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald. If you could get tickets to a concert, what acts would you like to see?

Suggested Activities

1. Create a classroom time capsule. Ask each student to bring in one small object and talk (or write) about its significance. Label the capsule “Do Not Open until ____” (Let the students choose a year.) Hide the capsule in the school library.
2. Study a map of the night sky and identify as many constellations as you can.
3. What does it feel like when a friend moves away? Write a letter to a friend or family member you miss.