

Classroom Guide to “The Great White”

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From RIVER CITY SECRETS: STORIES FROM RICHMOND

Vocabulary

pyramid	guttering
immense	apparition
trough	monolith
wraith	specter

Discussion Questions

1. The Iron Dog in Hollywood Cemetery is black. Why does Kiki’s grandfather refer to the dog that is rumored to roam the cemetery at night as “The Great White”?
2. Jax says the Iron Dog is a hero. What is a hero? Can an animal be a hero? Do you know any heroes that are animals?
3. Have you visited a cemetery that has buildings like a city has? What is the biggest monument you have seen? Was it in a cemetery?

Suggested Activities

1. Hollywood Cemetery was planned to have streets with names. Create a design for a cemetery. What would you choose for street names?
2. Draw a monument to go in your cemetery. What would it look like?
3. The designers of Hollywood Cemetery thought it was important for people to feel comfortable walking around a cemetery (in the daytime). How would you landscape a cemetery to be welcoming so that it would invite people to visit, to enjoy a picnic, or just relax as if they had gone out for a day in the park? Is that a good idea? Why? Why not?