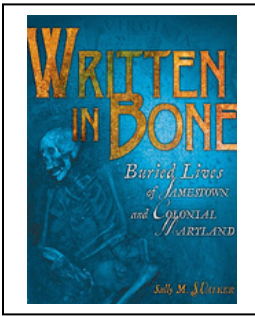


# Eighth Grade Summer Reading Goes Back to the Future



## The All-Grade Read



The RRMS eighth grade faculty welcomes the class of 2016 with an exciting summer reading program that will bring the coming school year full circle. This summer we introduce the all-grade read: a 2010 Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults award winner that makes an impressive interdisciplinary impact. *Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland* chronicles the anthropological dig of America's James Fort in Jamestown, Virginia. Author Sally M. Walker works alongside scientists to unlock an intriguing story that reeks and creaks like the lid of a coffin.

RRMS eighth graders will recognize the book's material in several classes and throughout the year. Science classes will discuss the science behind the dig: the scientific method, forensic studies, and carbon dating. Exponential decay is currently a unit of study in eighth grade math classes. Social studies and English classes will work together to present colonial America through informational text and Esther Forbes's classic novel, *Johnny Tremain*. In *Written in Bone*, twenty-first century forensic science uncovers the stories of these multicultural people from the colonial era helping make the school year richer and more connected than ever before. In 2009, the state-of-the-art *Written in Bone* exhibit opened at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. which students will visit during their three-day trip to the nation's capital.

## The Choice Read

In addition to the all-grade read, students are required to choose one book from the list of fiction below. These books, many which have won critical acclaim, have been selected to interest today's teen. See back for reading assignments and grading process.

### LOL

### OMG!

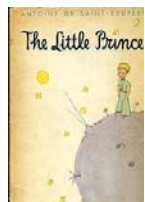
### FYSBIGTBABN

(Fasten Your Seat Belts It's Going to Be a Bumpy Night!)



#### **Wednesday Wars** By Gary D. Schmidt

This quirky coming-of-age story explores the wisdom of Shakespeare during the cultural uproar of the 1960's.



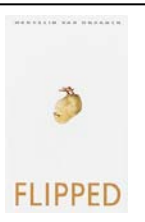
#### **The Little Prince** By Antoine De Saint-Exupery

The narrator, a downed pilot in the Sahara Desert, meets a prince who, through his child-like eyes, sees the important things in life much more clearly than many adults. This simply-told yet sophisticated story is appropriate for all readers.



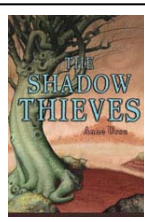
#### **The Graveyard Book** By Neil Gaiman

Raised and educated by ghosts, there are dangers and adventures for a boy living in a graveyard. This Newbery Award winner is authored by the writer of *Coraline* and is just as magical and terrifying.



#### **Flipped** By Wendelin Van Draanen

Bryce and Julie's rants and raves about each other ring so true that teen readers will quickly identify with at least one of these hilarious feuding egos, if not both. Recommended for the teen who needs a laugh and new perspective on middle school drama.



#### **The Shadow Thieves** By Anne Ursu

An extraordinary tale filled with Greek gods, shadowless children, and a plot to overthrow the Lord of the Dead is weaved with wit and cynicism and will be a sure-fire hit with fans of Percy Jackson and the Olympians.



#### **The Hunger Games** By Suzanne Collins

In the spirit of *The Giver*, this gripping story is set in a post-apocalyptic world where children are used as gladiators in televised fights to the death.

**The following assignments should be completed while reading.  
The assignments are due on Friday, September 2, 2011.**

### All-Grade Read Assignment

Answer the following question in essay format: With what subject do you associate *Written in Bone*: science, social studies or literature? Think about what you learned while reading and how the book presents information. When writing your response to the question, cite specific evidence from the text to support your position. Use the rubric below to guide your work.

Grading Rubric	Strong 3 pts	Average 2 pts	Weak 1 pt
<b>Idea</b>	Subject association is clear and narrowed to one subject	Subject association is clear but addresses more than one subject	Subject association is unclear
<b>Evidence</b>	Evidence is appropriate(logical), accurate(truthful), and adequate(enough)	Evidence is either appropriate, accurate or adequate	Evidence is not appropriate, accurate or adequate
<b>Explanation</b>	Connection of evidence to the idea is clear	Connection of evidence to the idea is attempted but not clear	Connection of evidence to the idea is not attempted
<b>Revision</b>	A polished piece was submitted and editing was apparent	A legible copy was submitted but editing was incomplete	Numerous errors and lack of neatness disrupts the reader's understanding

### The Choice Read Assignment

Create a graphic organizer to chart important information about the fictional book you read. Either use a plot diagram that illustrates the exposition, the rising action, the climax and the falling action; use a timeline that sequences the events of the story including the introduction of major and some minor characters; or design a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the main character of the story to yourself. Be sure to address the topics outlined in the rubric below.

Grading Rubric	Strong 3 pts	Average 2 pts	Weak 1 pt
<b>Exposition</b>	The character(s), setting and conflict descriptions create a picture for the reader	The character(s), setting and conflict are clear but lack description	One or more of the parts of the exposition are missing
<b>Rising Action</b>	Plot events are logically sequenced and explain the impact on the main character	Plot events are logically sequenced but lack description	Plot events are disconnected and lack an explanation of their impact on the main character
<b>Climax</b>	The climax accurately explains how the character solved the story's conflict	The climax is apparent but the action is not connected to the conflict resolution	The climax is attempted but not accurate
<b>Falling Action</b>	How the character's life is different after the conflict resolution is clearly explained. The theme of the book is clear	The explanation of how the character's life is changed after the conflict resolution lacks the book's theme	Plot events that end the book are clear, but how the character's life has changed and the book's theme are not
<b>Revision</b>	A polished piece was submitted and editing was apparent	A legible copy was submitted but editing was incomplete	Numerous errors and lack of neatness disrupts the reader's understanding