

MIDDLE SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

## ***Steal Away Home by Lois Ruby***

### **English Language Arts, 7th Grade**

#### **WHAT'S THE STORY?**

A twelve-year old girl discovers a skeleton in a hidden room in her Lawrence, Kansas home. In her attempt to learn more about the skeleton, Dana discovers that her home was once a station on the Underground Railroad. The novel moves back and forth between present day and 1856.

#### **CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM**

*The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.*

- **Unit 2 Issues & Explorations of the World**
  - Essential Question: What issues are important to an individual and how do we gather the resources needed for exploration?
- **Unit 4: Stories & the Human Spirit**
  - Essential Question: How do different authors tell the stories and portray the human spirit?

#### **KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED**

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions ( one -on- one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on other's ideas and experiencing their own clearly. SL.7.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text: provide an objective summary of the text. RL.7.2
- Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact ( e.g. how setting shapes the characters or plot). RL.7.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings RL.7.4
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. W.7.3
- With some guidance and support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, editing or trying a new approach, focusing on how well the purpose and audience have been addressed? W.7.5

- Explain how the author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text. Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the point of view of different characters or narrators in a text RL.7.6
- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation. W.7.7
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each new source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. W.7.8
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. Language in Writing .W7.9
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing W.7.10
- Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history. RL7.9
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when reading to aid comprehension. RL7.10
- Demonstrate an understanding of figurative language , word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL7.12