

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler
by E. L. Konigsburg

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Childrens' Literature

Lesson 1: Chapter 1-2

Questions:

1. Why did Claudia choose Jamie to run away with her?
2. What was the benefit of taking out the family trash?
3. Why did Jamie want to eat his instructions?
4. How much money did Claudia and Jamie start out with?
5. Why was the money in the form of change?

Discussion Objectives:

What was Claudia's reasoning for running away?
Was she justified in her reasoning?
Why did Claudia choose the Metropolitan Museum of Art?
List and discuss the preparations made by Claudia.
Do you think Claudia's choice of Jamie was a good one so far?

Assignment:

Claudia chose the Metropolitan Museum of Art because she wanted to learn something so she wouldn't feel guilty about missing school. Where would you go to learn more about something?

Lesson 2: Chapter 3-4

Questions:

1. How would Claudia and Jamie get their clothes and get back into the museum?
2. How much money did they start out with when they got to New York?
3. What does "inconspicuous" mean?
4. What was involved in "manning their stations?"

5. Choose three places from the map that you would like to learn about.

Discussion Objectives:

What were the jobs of Claudia and Jamie (ex: Jamie was the keeper of the money)?

Describe the plan to get into the museum with their packages.

Describe the plan to avoid being detected in the morning.

Discuss the connection Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler has with Claudia and Jamie

Assignment:

Claudia chose Jamie to be her companion based on the fact that he had money and they became a "team." Whom would you choose to take along on your trip that you wrote about? Why?

Lesson 3: Chapter 5-6

Questions:

1. What was their mistake in washing their clothes?
2. What did they research in the library?
3. How did Claudia and Jamie acquire more money?
4. What clue did they find on the table where *Angel* had been?
5. Why do you think Claudia called Jamie "Albert?"

Discussion Objectives:

Show how Claudia and Jamie seem to be growing closer together / becoming a team

Discuss what was so interesting about *Angel*

List different things the children could do to research *Angel* and the sculptor

Discuss whether it was wrong to take money out of the fountain

Describe why it was so important for Claudia to discover the truth before she went home

Assignment:

While helping your Grandmother move boxes in her attic, you find some old papers in a box that came from her home in Florence. One of them is a sketch of an old airplane with flapping wings. Below is the date: 1500. Using the clues provided, find out who may have drawn these sketches.

Lesson 4: Chapter 7-8

Questions:

1. What is a *mastaba*?
2. Whom did Jamie and Claudia discover in the museum?
3. What was Jamie's explanation to why there was no school?
4. What did the letter from the head of the museum say?
5. Where did they have to travel to finish their investigation? Why?

Discussion Objectives:

Discuss how Claudia used the fact that Jamie's class was there to her advantage

Describe Claudia's interest in the guide (being different fascinated her)

Discuss the three possibilities that the head of the museum listed for the sculptor of *Angel*

Discuss Claudia's need to come back different and to accomplish something before going home

Assignment:

Claudia and Jamie learned to budget their money while on their own. Pretend that you are Jamie and you have saved \$100.00 to use while running away. Using the list provided, plan your meals for you **and** your companion. (Guide: remember the five food groups, please.....you arrive Monday at 3pm and leave Friday at 9am..... you will not need money for the trip to Farmington, Conn.....and there are **no** fountains to get loose change.)

2 bus fares round trip:	\$34.98	Grilled Chicken Salad	\$1.99
Mail box:	\$7.35	Blueberry yogurt	\$0.69
2 loads of laundry:	\$2.50	Tuna sandwich	\$1.09
		Cottage cheese	\$0.59
apples, oranges:	\$0.35	Turkey sandwich	\$2.09
toast:	\$0.59	Pizza slice	\$1.39
juice:	\$0.89	Chicken soup	\$1.09
Bacon Egg McMuffin	\$2.09	Spaghetti	\$3.29
Belgium Waffles	\$2.89	Milk	\$0.49
Breakfast omelet:	\$1.49	Side-salad	\$0.99
Hamburger	\$1.59	Fish sticks	\$1.29
Fries	\$0.79	Ice cream dish	\$0.99 →

Lesson 5: Chapter 9-10

Questions:

1. How did Mrs. Frankweiler know Claudia and Jamie were missing?
2. What was Mrs. Frankweiler's secret? What was Claudia and Jamie's secret?
3. What did Jamie accidentally tell Mrs. Frankweiler?
4. How were the files organized?
5. What was the connection between Mrs. Frankweiler's lawyer and Jamie and Claudia?

Discussion Objectives:

Discuss why Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler was so interested in the story. What would she do with the story?

Discuss why Claudia felt the trip was worthwhile in the end.

Tell the connection between the lawyer and the children.

List what they learned from this experience.

Assignment:

Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler had many secrets filed away under the city from which they came. One of them was the identity of the sculptor of *Angel*. Write a description of another file that could have been included in the secrets. Include pictures or descriptions of objects if necessary.