



TeachersFirst READING TREKS

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Teacher Guide

Access Reading
Trek Map

Grade Level & Content Areas

Ages: 7–11

Grades: 3–6

Reading Level: 4.7

Lexile Measure: 700L

Guided Reading Level: S

Developmental Reading

Assessment (DRA): 40

Content Areas: English/language arts, reading, literature, and social studies (including history and geography).

Synopsis of Book

In this delightful children’s adventure by E. L. Konigsburg, Claudia and her brother James run away from home to a comfortable and lovely place—the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. After they take up residence in the museum, the two try to solve the mystery of who created the recently arrived famed statue, “Angel.” Was it Michelangelo? With hints from the former owner, Mrs. Frankweiler, they learn the truth and find their way home again. This story inspired the 1973 film *The Hideaways* and a 1995 made-for-television movie.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Mathematical Practice

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Speaking & Listening

- Comprehension and Collaboration

- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.

Common Core State Standards for 6–12

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

Mathematical Practice

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Speaking & Listening

- Comprehension and Collaboration

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
- Theme 4: INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map, highlighting its various layers.
2. View one or more of the current collections online at the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) by choosing an exhibition, then selecting the **Exhibition Objects** tab to view items in that collection. Have students select an object and write a written response concerning it.
3. Using the [Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#), choose either a geographic region or time period and compare and contrast the work using an online Venn diagram like the one found on ClassTools ([TeachersFirst review](#))
4. Calculate the cost of Claudia and James's adventures if they took place today using The Inflation Calculator ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
5. Using Claudia's idea that "happiness is excitement that has found a settling down place, but there is always a little corner that keeps flapping around," use Flip ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a visual response of personal happiness.

Extension Activities:

1. View an assortment of [MetKids Create](#) videos, then choose one or more of the projects to complete as a class based on age and developmentally appropriate skills.
2. View various [works of art](#) and discuss the history of similar pieces.
3. Use a salt dough to create statues. Mix together 2 parts flour, 1 part salt, and 1 part water, then knead 10 minutes and allow to rest 20 minutes. This dough carves well until it dries.
4. Create a claymation video using FlexClip ([TeachersFirst review](#)). Students will need to plan their story, create clay shapes/figures, photograph the clay shapes/figures with each small change, and then upload the images into the video maker. (Note: this activity may need to be a joint venture between a classroom teacher and technology teacher.)
5. Use Timeline JS ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a timeline related to either a self-selected or assigned artist that includes their important works and world events. Find information for many artists on [BBC History](#).
6. View "[Growing Up in the 60's](#)" and discuss how toys have changed over the years, including which remain the same. Brainstorm what toys will be like in the future and sketch out a prototype, name the toy, and create a sales slogan.

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks](#)

Other Resources:

- [Museum Map](#)
- [Storyboard That - Lesson Plan and Activities for *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*](#)
- [Art Extensions for the Book *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*](#)
- [A Navigator Novel Study Guide for *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*](#)
- [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)
- [Museum Kids - The Mixed-Up Files Issue](#)
- [Can You Spot a Fake? The Trouble with Authenticating Art](#)