



# TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

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

[TeachersFirst Reading Treks Link](#)

### **Synopsis of Book**

Claudia and her brother James run away from home to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, someplace comfortable and lovely in this delightful children's adventure by E. L. Konigsburg. After they take up residence in the museum, they try to solve the mystery of who created the recently arrived statue, Angel. Was it Michelangelo? With Mrs. Frankweiler's hints, they learn the truth and find their way home again.

### **Using a TeachersFirst Reading Trek to Explore This Book**

TeachersFirst Reading Treks are a way of creating a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or text. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this Instructional Guide and the accompanying Google 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!

### **Grade Level & Content Areas**

Grades 4-8 English Language Arts, English, reading, literature, art. RL=4.7 Lexile = 700L. DRA= 40. Guided Reading=S

### **Common Core State Standards for K-6 Grade**

#### **Reading**

- **Informational Text** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)
- **Literature** (key ideas and details and craft and structure)

## Writing

- **Text Types and purposes**
- **Research** (to build and present knowledge)

## ISTE: Student Standards

(1) Empowered Learner: Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.

(3) Knowledge Constructor: Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.

(6) Creative Communicator: Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

## Using the Reading Trek in Class

This title has a particularly strong setting, which is critical to the author's plot and theme and is reflected in the Reading Trek. The following suggestions can be used by the whole class, small groups, or individuals.

1. Use the locations and resources in the Connecticut layer to introduce the book and what life was like in the 1960s, especially for children. Make comparison charts of life in the 60s and now, e.g. school, family life, food, and fashion.
2. In the New York City layer, research the Metropolitan Museum of Art and how the children were able to hide and live there. See the math activity below for more extension.
3. Research the art history and art authentication aspects of the book using the Art History Information layer.
4. In the About the Book layer, find out more about E. L. Konigsburg and why she wrote the book. Use some of the links for reading checks, discussion starters, and writing prompts.
5. Using the [guide](#) to the play about the book, have students create skits or videos based on a favorite scene from the story using resources from the Reading Trek.

## Additional Activities

1. Introduce the book to the whole class using an interactive whiteboard.
2. Have students research more about the book using the Reading Trek as a web quest.
3. For a math activity and using [this lesson plan](#), have students calculate what the travels by Claudia and James would cost today.
4. As an assignment, have individuals or small groups create Reading Treks of the book or a particular passage or topic about the book.
5. Suggested additional material to explore would be information about the author, place names in the story, characters, and events.

6. For geography and map lessons, have students, individually or in groups, create museum maps or floor plans of local places, such as their school or public library.

## Helpful Resources

- [Guided Reading Plan](#)
- [Scholastic Discussion Guide](#)
- [Museum Kids The Mixed-Up Files Issue](#)
- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Mapping Across Content Areas with Google](#)
- [Ok2Ask: Seeing is Believing: Make Literature Come Alive with Google Lit Trips](#)