



TeachersFirst READING TREKS

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

Teacher Guide

Grade Level & Content Areas

Access Reading
Trek Map

Ages: 7–11

Grades: 3–6

Reading Level: 4th grade

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 famed, recently arrived 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 by displaying the [Reading Trek map](#) on an interactive whiteboard and highlighting its various layers.
2. View one or more of the current exhibitions at the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) online. Choose an exhibition, then select the **Exhibition Objects** tab to view items in that collection. Have students select an object and write a response about it.
3. Use the [Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#) to select a geographic region or time period, then compare and contrast the works using an online Venn diagram, such as 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 Gravity ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a visual response to the idea of personal happiness.
6. Find The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New York Public Library (5th and 42nd Street branches), and nearby restaurants on a [New York City map](#). Calculate how many blocks the characters would walk in between.
7. Locate museums that display international art on a map of your state. Research if they have virtual field trips and have students read up on items displayed within.
8. Create a map of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Make sure to include multiple exhibits, restrooms, the entranceway, guard stations, and the gift shop. Canva for Education ([TeachersFirst review](#)) has templates for floor maps, if you use the search box.

Extension Activities:

1. View an assortment of [MetKids Create](#) videos, then choose one or more age-appropriate projects to complete as a class.
2. View various [works of art](#) and discuss the history of similar pieces.
3. Use a salt dough to create statues. Mix 2 parts flour, 1 part salt, and 1 part water, then knead for 10 minutes. Allow the dough to rest for 20 minutes before using. 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. (This activity may work best as a joint venture between a classroom teacher and a technology teacher.)
5. Use Timeline JS ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a timeline related to either a self-selected or assigned artist that includes their essential works and significant world events. Find information for many artists on [BBC History](#).
6. View "[Growing Up in the 1960s Means You Remember This](#)." Discuss what is the same today and what has changed. Use an online tool like Canva's Venn Diagram Maker ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
7. Show various works of art containing angels and cherubs. Have students draw their own picture of one. Use a variety of mediums.

Consider using Google Drawings ([TeachersFirst review](#)).

8. Create a comparative list of the similarities and differences between running away today and in the 1960s. Could children really live in a

public building for a week? Discuss the differences in transportation, security, media coverage, money, and technology. Students can reply using a digital bulletin board like Padlet ([TeachersFirst review](#)).

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Building Background Knowledge with Reading Treks](#)
- [OK2Ask: No Passport Required: Cross-Curricular Learning Journeys with Google My Maps](#)

Other Resources:

- [Metropolitan Museum of Art 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*](#)
- [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)
- [Museum Kids - The Mixed-Up Files Issue](#)
- [Can You Spot a Fake? The Trouble with Authenticating Art](#)