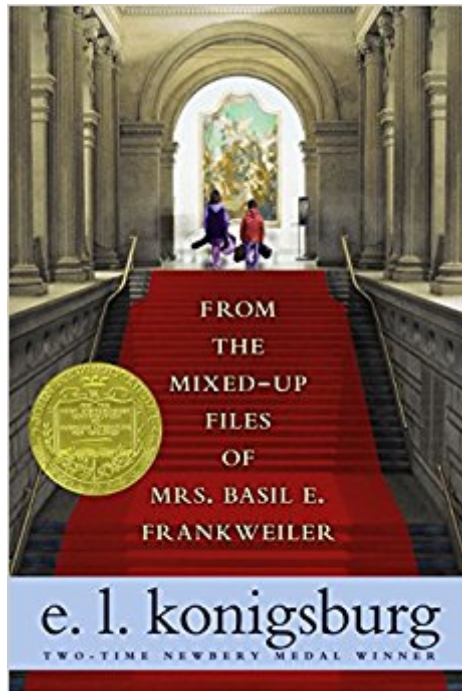




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From The Mixed-up Files Of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler



Synopsis

2017 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the beloved classic *From the Mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run from somewhere she wants to run to somewhere—*to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and preferably elegant*. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Knowing that her younger brother, Jamie, has money and thus can help her with the serious cash flow problem she invites him along. Once settled into the museum, Claudia and Jamie, find themselves caught up in the mystery of an angel statue that the museum purchased at an auction for a bargain price of \$250. The statue is possibly an early work of the Renaissance master Michelangelo, and therefore worth millions. Is it? Or isn't it? Claudia is determined to find out. This quest leads Claudia to Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, the remarkable old woman who sold the statue and to some equally remarkable discoveries about herself.

Book Information

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Paperback: 176 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,037 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in *Books > Children's Books >*

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#65 in *Books > Children's Books > Classics*

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Claudia is bored. She's ready for a big change, but wants to make sure she does it with style. When she decides to run away, Claudia plans to be a runaway with specific goals: to be comfortable, to be changed, and to be appreciated at home. She carefully appoints a partner (her younger brother), and selects a destination (The Metropolitan Museum of Art), but there are some adventures you

simply can't plan in advance. Claudia and her brother Jamie are soon embroiled in an artistic mystery even the experts can't solve, but discovering a solution to this puzzle might just help Claudia find the answer to her personal quest. Konigsburg's unique story, compelling style, and distinctive line drawings make this Newbery Medal-winner a book readers won't want to put down. Especially for children on the cusp of adolescence, Claudia's desire to be someone and her corresponding search for identity will ring true for those searching for their true selves. (Ages 9 to 12) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

When Claudia decided to run away, she planned very carefully. She would be gone just long enough to teach her parents a lesson in Claudia appreciation. And she would go in comfort-she would live at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She saved her money, and she invited her brother Jamie to go, mostly because he was a miser and would have money. Claudia was a good organizer and Jamie had some ideas, too; so the two took up residence at the museum right on schedule. But once the fun of settling in was over, Claudia had two unexpected problems: She felt just the same, and she wanted to feel different; and she found a statue at the Museum so beautiful she could not go home until she had discovered its maker, a question that baffled the experts, too. The former owner of the statue was Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. Without her-well, without her, Claudia might never have found a way to go home. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler" was the Newberry Medal winning book of 1968, and I read it myself shortly after that. I remember being struck at that time, as a young teenager, with what an interesting story the author made of a runaway brother and sister and a mystery they stumble across about a statue in the museum. I was utterly fascinated during the entire read, and I was a good "test case", having read and enjoyed many mysteries for kids before this one. Far from being "encouraged to become a runaway" as some misguided reviewers criticize this story for, I can remember being concerned at how the runaways' family would be impacted by not knowing their fate. This is the type of difficult situation that kids should spend some time thinking about. The fantasy of the kids living in the museum is just fun. They must find ways to dress, bathe, sleep, and eat, all within the normal resources which would be available to them within the museum, and the story of how they accomplish that life is interesting and entertaining. Finally there is the mystery of the statue. A beautiful statue with an uncertain provenance, the kids become enamored of it and seek to investigate its origins. Their pursuit of answers proceeds in a logical and entirely believable series of actions which serve to drive the focus of the plot. Whether this type of story will

capture the imagination and interest of kids today who are more used to video games is a question I can't answer. I would feel sorry for any kids who can't understand and become intrigued by this story, as it is a good one to spur thinking on several levels. Highly recommended.

Oh this book is such a classic! Young girl who is the oldest sister decides to run away. She carefully selects her accomplice (second younger brother Jamie) and then camps out in the Met. Good golly! How awesome! This was the original museum slumber party! I (re)read this book with my 13 year old and 11 year old twins - all boys - and we had a great time imagining what it would be like to: (1) not bathe except in a public water fountain; (2) pick up all the coins in said water fountain; and (3) eat junk food all the time. I believe I have the kids sold on running away, but they cannot decide if they would rather live in the California Museum of Science or the Bay Area Discovery Museum. Personal anecdotes aside, this book stands the test of time. Eternal themes of curiosity, loyalty, and good judgement reverberate through the pages of this well written, well paced story. This is an absolute must read for everyone, especially anyone over 50 who grew up in New York City!!

I was an adolescent when this book was published, so I didn't discover it as a child. It has given me profound delight to discover it as a 65-year-old woman...not the least because Ms. Konigsburg transported me so elegantly back to my 12-year-old self. This is a timeless classic, one I am so glad to have encountered...at any age!

Excellent book, excellent reader on audio book, daughter loved it! Rare to find an audio book that doesn't have to have the volume constantly adjusted. This one had clear and even audio.

Bought for daughter's Language Arts assignment. I remember reading this book when I was a kid.

A seriously fantastic book! I have nothing but great things to say about this piece! I highly recommend it for both kids and adults of all ages! It is a most unique and creative kids book that you will never forget.

Wonderful book - my daughter loved it and I remember reading it when I was in school. A great adventure

I thought that this book was absolutely charming. Even though I am one of those eccentrics who

typically do not consider plots to be the most important aspects of books, I must admit that this story was much fun and that it was very clever (even if quite unrealistic). I would recommend this book to kids of all ages.

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