

THE BOOK UMBRELLA

NOVEL STUDY

FROM THE
MIXED-UP FILES OF
MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER

By E.L.Konigsburg



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

by E. L. Konigsburg

A Novel Study by:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Dictionary Detective!

Chapters 1 – 2

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.

inconvenient

Definition: _____

accustomed

Definition: _____

tycoon

Definition: _____

penetrated

Definition: _____

commuters

Definition: _____

expenditures

Definition: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study

Chapters 1 – 2

Match Up

Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| inconvenient • | • something bothersome or slightly annoying |
| accustomed • | • went into |
| tycoon • | • things you spend money on |
| penetrated • | • a person very successful in business |
| commuters • | • people who travel into the city for work |
| expenditures • | • used to something |

Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

inconvenient accustomed tycoon penetrated commuters expenditures

1. Having to walk to the store in snowy weather was _____.
2. I was stuck in traffic with all the other _____.
3. He was _____ to waiting in lines at the airport.
4. At the start of a new school year, families have many _____.
5. He is an oil _____ with a huge company in Texas.
6. The wind _____ right through the thin cabin walls.

**A Little
Extra!**

Why does Claudia call Jamie's card playing in Chapter 1, "his precious game"?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 1 – 2

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is *not* a reason Claudia chooses Jamie to be her runaway companion?
- (a) He knows a lot about the city.
(b) He is rich.
(c) He would stay quiet.
(d) He's good for a laugh.
2. What does Claudia do to prepare for running away in Chapter 1?
- (a) She learns to speak French.
(b) She plans her bus route.
(c) She saves up money.
(d) She buys a tent.

Short Answer

3. What does Jamie do with his allowance in Chapter 1?

Long Answer

4. Describe the kind of place that Claudia wants to run away to in Chapter 1.

**A Little
Extra!**

Jamie does not want to take the train to New York City. How would he rather get there?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Summary

Chapters 1 – 2

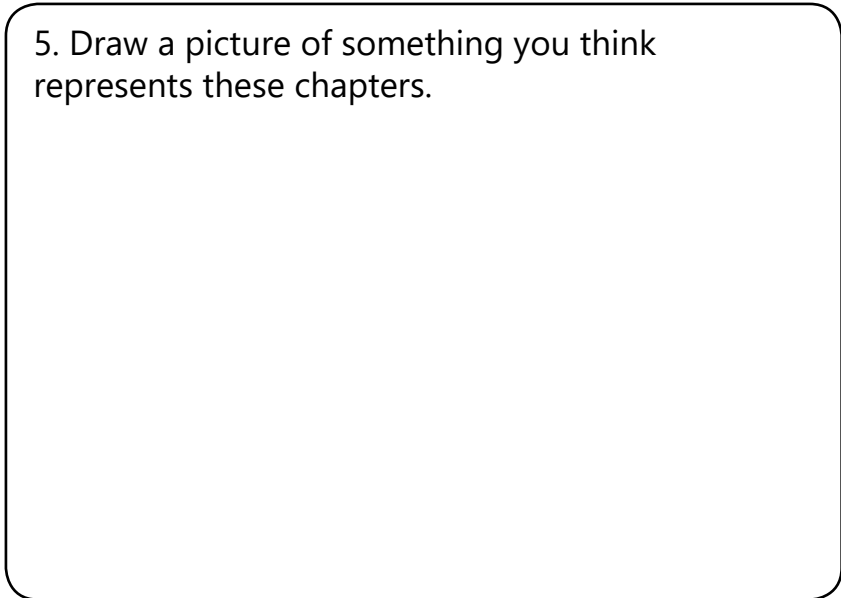
1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in Chapters 1 and 2?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Dictionary Detective!

Chapters 3 – 4

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.

inconspicuous

Definition: _____

ornately

Definition: _____

vitally

Definition: _____

perilous

Definition: _____

vain

Definition: _____

trifle

Definition: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study

Chapters 3 – 4

Which Word?

On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

inconspicuous	ornately	vitality	perilous	vain	trifle
---------------	----------	----------	----------	------	--------

1. Absolutely necessary. _____
2. Someone or something that blends in. _____
3. An unsuccessful effort. _____
4. Describing an item that is heavily decorated. _____
5. A small amount. _____
6. Dangerous or risky. _____

Making Sentences

Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Inconspicuous: _____
2. Ornately: _____
3. Vitality: _____
4. Perilous: _____
5. Vain: _____
6. Trifle: _____

**A Little
Extra!**

In Chapter 4, Claudia tells Jamie that something he wants to do is, "unnecessarily complicated". In your own words, explain what this phrase means.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 3 – 4

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 4, which gallery do Claudia and Jamie visit first for their studies?

- (a) Egyptian Art.
- (b) Greek and Roman Art.
- (c) Italian Renaissance.
- (d) Arms and Armor.

2. Which statue do Claudia and Jamie see in Chapter 4?

- (a) Angel.
- (b) David.
- (c) Cherub.
- (d) Michelangelo.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 3, what do Claudia and Jamie do with their bags when the first arrive at the museum?

Long Answer

4. From Chapter 3, describe where Claudia and Jamie sleep in the museum.

**A Little
Extra!**

What does Jamie find shocking about the museum cafeteria?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Summary

Chapters 3 – 4

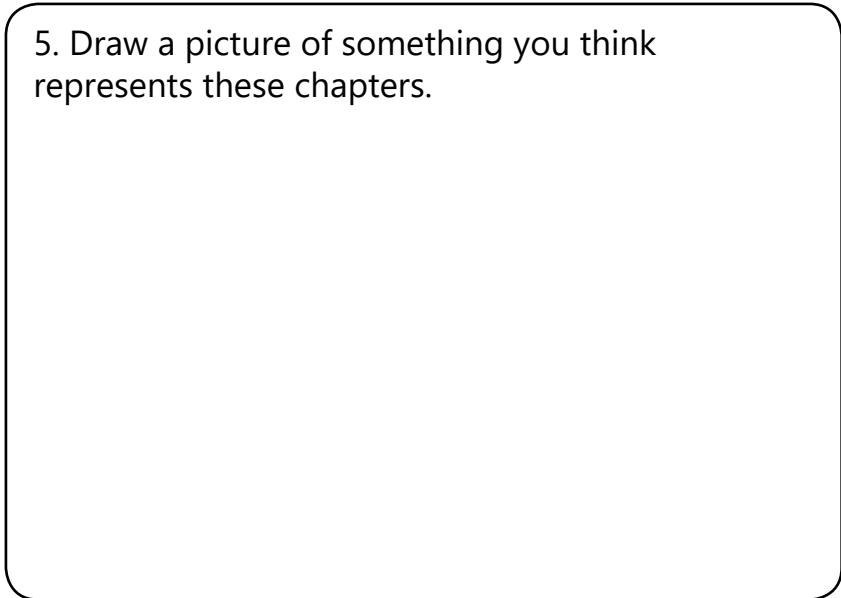
1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in Chapters 3 and 4?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Dictionary Detective!

Chapters 5 – 6

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.

dismally

Definition: _____

juvenile

Definition: _____

delinquent

Definition: _____

stealthily

Definition: _____

emblem

Definition: _____

shepherded

Definition: _____

Vocabulary Study

Chapters 5 – 6

Match Up

A synonym is a word that means the same as another word. For example, happy and joyful are synonyms. Match the vocabulary words with their synonyms!

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| dismally • | • guided |
| juvenile • | • sneakily |
| delinquent • | • young |
| stealthily • | • symbol |
| emblem • | • lawbreaker |
| shepherded • | • unhappily |

Best Word

Circle the word which works best in each sentence.

1. Jake had a bad cold and (dismally / juvenile) agreed to stay home from the game.
2. He had the school (shepherded / emblem) sewn on the outside of his jacket.
3. The (juvenile / delinquent) owl's feathers are much fluffier than the adult's.
4. He (emblem / stealthily) crawled up the fire escape.
5. An unknown (delinquent / stealthily) stole my bicycle last week.
6. The principal (dismally / shepherded) the students out of the auditorium.

**A Little
Extra!**

How does the author describe Jamie's tension when he hears men talking in the museum after closing hours?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 5 – 6

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 5, where do Claudia and Jamie go to do research on the statue?

- (a) The library.
- (b) The museum bookstore.
- (c) The museum storage room.
- (d) The newspaper office.

2. What do Claudia and Jamie discover in Chapter 6?

- (a) The Angel statue.
- (b) A symbol outlined in fabric.
- (c) A sculpture damaged with pen marks.
- (d) A sculptor's signature.

Short Answer

3. Where do Claudia and Jamie take a bath in Chapter 5?

Long Answer

4. From Chapter 6, describe Claudia and Jamie's plan to inform the museum about the statue's mark.

**A Little
Extra!**

What kind of fabric is the angel statue sitting on?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Summary

Chapters 5 – 6

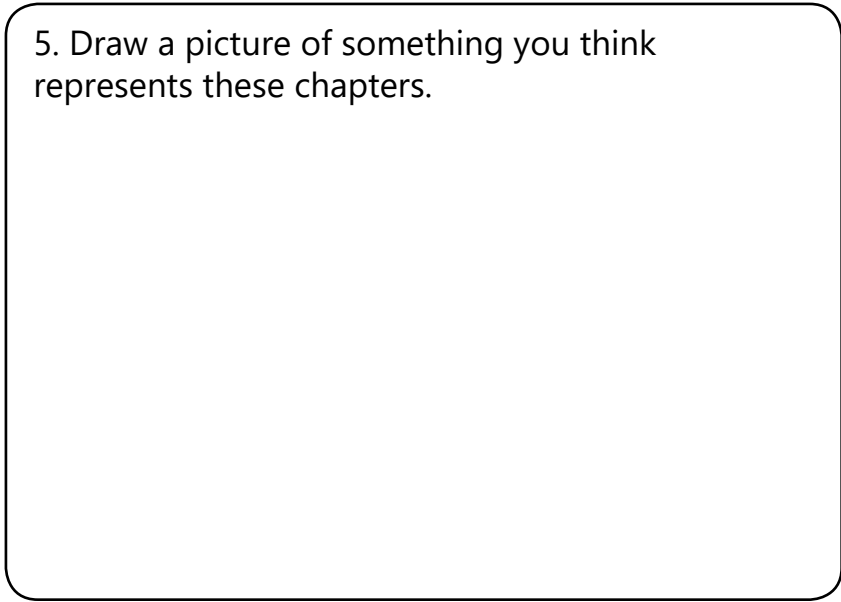
1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in Chapters 5 and 6?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Dictionary Detective!

Chapters 7 – 8

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.

stowaways

Definition: _____

solemnly

Definition: _____

abrasions

Definition: _____

keen

Definition: _____

consensus

Definition: _____

righteously

Definition: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study

Chapters 7 – 8

Match Up

Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| stowaways • | • in a serious way |
| solemnly • | • an agreement made by a group |
| abrasions • | • excellent; cool |
| keen • | • people who hide on trains, ships, or planes |
| consensus • | • areas that are scraped away |
| righteously • | • doing something the right or moral way |

Fill in the Blanks

Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

stowaways solemnly abrasions keen consensus righteously

1. I got a _____ pair of running shoes for my birthday.
2. The _____ hid in the back, behind the luggage.
3. They _____ listened to the funeral service.
4. He had a lot of _____ from falling off his bike.
5. He _____ followed his religious beliefs.
6. The class came to a _____ about which book to read next.

**A Little
Extra!**

Make a sentence using at least two of the vocabulary words.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 7 – 8

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 7, how long do Claudia and Jamie rent their post office box for?

- (a) 3 days.
- (b) 3 weeks.
- (c) 3 months.
- (d) 3 years.

2. Where do Claudia and Jamie go to take a tour in Chapter 8?

- (a) The United Nations building.
- (b) The Egyptian Art gallery.
- (c) The Arms and Armory gallery.
- (d) The Empire State Building.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 7, which museum visitors do Claudia and Jamie recognize?

Long Answer

4. Summarize the Metropolitan Museum of Art's reply letter in Chapter 8.

**A Little
Extra!**

In Chapter 8, what does Jamie tell the ticket seller to explain why he and Claudia are not in school?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Summary

Chapters 7 – 8

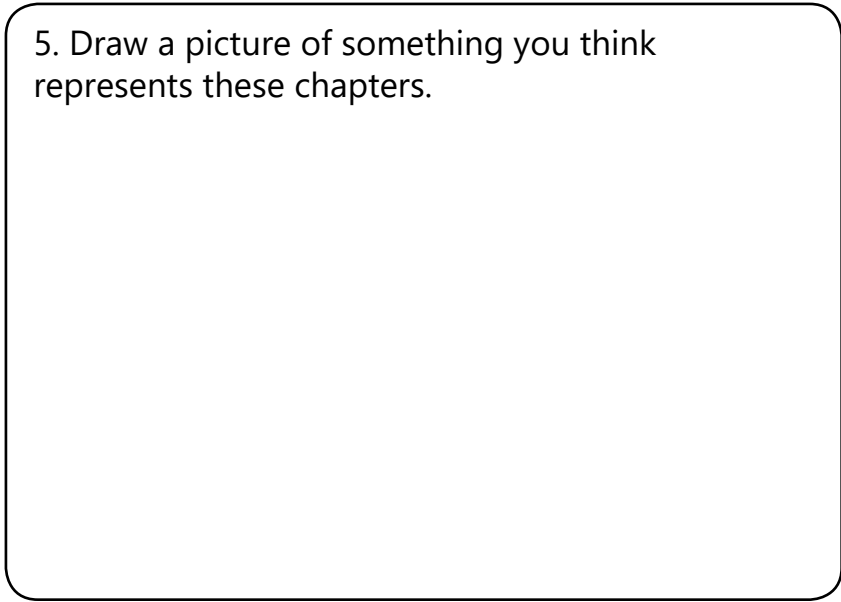
1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in Chapters 7 and 8?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Dictionary Detective!

Chapters 9 – 10

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.

paupers

Definition: _____

intrigued

Definition: _____

caper

Definition: _____

preoccupied

Definition: _____

maimed

Definition: _____

bequeathing

Definition: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study

Chapters 9 – 10

Which Word?

On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

paupers	intrigued	caper	preoccupied	maimed	bequeathing
---------	-----------	-------	-------------	--------	-------------

1. Busy with something. _____
2. Poor people. _____
3. Leaving a valuable item to someone in a will. _____
4. A crazy plan or scheme. _____
5. Aroused someone's interest or curiosity. _____
6. Badly injured. _____

Making Sentences

Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Paupers: _____
2. Intrigued: _____
3. Caper: _____
4. Preoccupied: _____
5. Maimed: _____
6. Bequeathing: _____

**A Little
Extra!**

Use descriptive language to describe what you think Mrs. Frankweiler's butler, Parks, looks like.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 9 – 10

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 9, why does Claudia tell Jamie not to call her Lady Claudia anymore?

- (a) They are not at the museum.
- (b) They are broke.
- (c) They gave up finding out about Angel.
- (d) She doesn't like the nickname anymore.

2. How do the kids get home in Chapter 10?

- (a) In Mrs. Basil's Rolls Royce.
- (b) In a taxi cab.
- (c) On the train.
- (d) In a police car.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 9, what is Mrs. Basil wearing when the kids meet her?

Long Answer

4. What do you think Jamie and Claudia will do with the sketch once they inherit it?

**A Little
Extra!**

What does Mrs. Frankweiler tell Saxonberg was found at the museum, left behind by Claudia and Jamie?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter Summary

Chapters 9 – 10

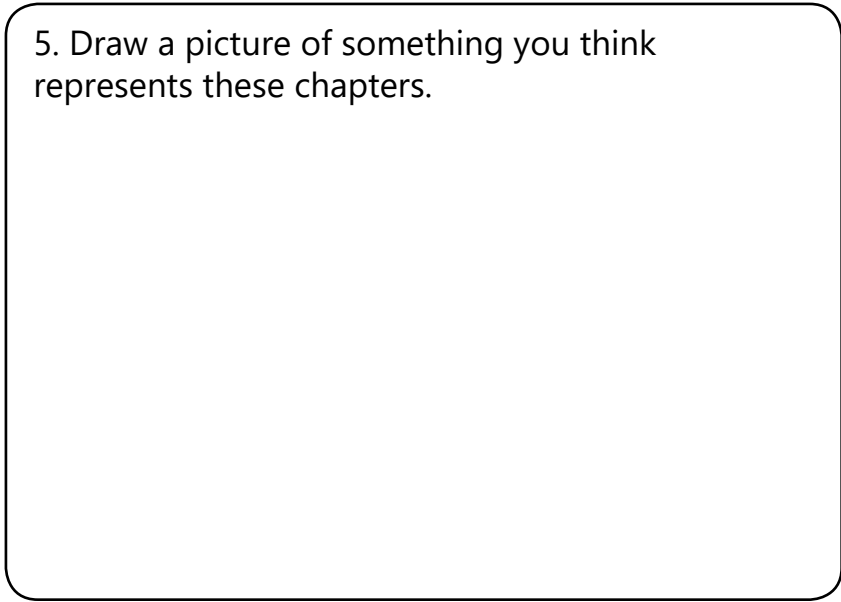
1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in Chapters 9 and 10?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Time for a Test!

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

Part A – Multiple Choice

1. How does Claudia get the train pass in Chapter 1?

- (a) She takes it from her father's pocket.
- (b) She buys the train pass.
- (c) She steals it at the train station.
- (d) She picks it out of a wastebasket.

2. In Chapter 1, what is Jamie's gambling game of choice?

- (a) Poker.
- (b) War.
- (c) Black Jack.
- (d) Rummy.

3. In Chapter 2, where does Jamie think they are running away to?

- (a) The United Nations building.
- (b) Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- (c) The woods.
- (d) The Statue of Liberty.

4. From Chapter 5, where in the museum do Claudia and Jamie hide in the mornings?

- (a) At the library.
- (b) In Angel's gallery.
- (c) In the restaurant.
- (d) Under the beds.

5. In Chapter 5, how do Claudia and Jamie get more money?

- (a) They take coins out of the fountain.
- (b) They pickpocket.
- (c) They find a wallet on the floor.
- (d) They get jobs.

6. In Chapter 5, how much money do Claudia and Jamie get?

- (a) \$0.87
- (b) \$2.87
- (c) \$8.72
- (d) \$12.87

7. What do Claudia and Jamie do on Sunday in Chapter 6?

- (a) Go to church.
- (b) Pray at the Middle Ages chapel.
- (c) Treat it like every other day.
- (d) Look at religious artwork.

8. Where do Claudia and Jamie end up in Chapter 8?

- (a) At the post office.
- (b) A drugstore.
- (c) Mrs. Basil's house.
- (d) At home.

9. In Chapter 9, what is the name of the file that contains information about Angel?

- (a) Bologna, Italy.
- (b) Michelangelo.
- (c) Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- (d) Angel.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Time for a Test!

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

Part B – Short Answer

1. Why does Claudia Kincaid want to run away from home at the beginning of the story?

2. The story is told from Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler’s point of view, through a letter she is writing. How do you think the story might be different if it were told from Claudia’s or Jamie’s point of view (choose either Claudia or Jamie)?

3. Who is Saxonberg? What surprising fact do we learn about him at the end of the story?

Part C – Long Answer

1. The setting is where and when a story takes place. Describe the main setting of *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*.

2. *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* can be described as a book about secrets. Explain why this is so.

Vocabulary Study - Answer Key

Chapters 1 – 2

Match Up

Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

inconvenient	•————•	something bothersome or slightly annoying
accustomed	•————•	went into
tycoon	•————•	things you spend money on
penetrated	•————•	a person very successful in business
commuters	•————•	people who travel into the city for work
expenditures	•————•	used to something

Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

inconvenient accustomed tycoon penetrated commuters expenditures

1. Having to walk to the store in snowy weather was **inconvenient**.
2. I was stuck in traffic with all the other **commuters**.
3. He was **accustomed** to waiting in lines at the airport.
4. At the start of a new school year, families have many **expenditures**.
5. He is an oil **tycoon** with a huge company in Texas.
6. The wind **penetrated** right through the thin cabin walls.

**A Little
Extra!**

Why does Claudia call Jamie's card playing in Chapter 1, "his precious game"?

Example - **She is being sarcastic and really doesn't approve of it.**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story - Answer Key

Chapters 1 – 2

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is *not* a reason Claudia chooses Jamie to be her runaway companion?
- (a) ***He knows a lot about the city.***
(b) He is rich.
(c) He would stay quiet.
(d) He's good for a laugh.
2. What does Claudia do to prepare for running away in Chapter 1?
- (a) She learns to speak French.
(b) She plans her bus route.
(c) ***She saves up money.***
(d) She buys a tent.

Short Answer

3. What does Jamie do with his allowance in Chapter 1?

Example - ***Jamie uses his allowance to gamble on the bus with Bruce.***

Long Answer

4. Describe the kind of place that Claudia wants to run away to in Chapter 1.

Example - ***Claudia doesn't like discomfort. She wants a large, comfortable, and indoor place. She prefers a beautiful and elegant place.***

**A Little
Extra!**

Jamie does not want to take the train to New York City. How would he rather get there?

Example - ***Jamie would prefer to hitchhike.***

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study - Answer Key

Chapters 3 – 4

Which Word?

On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

inconspicuous	ornately	vitality	perilous	vain	trifle
---------------	----------	----------	----------	------	--------

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Absolutely necessary. | vitality |
| 2. Someone or something that blends in. | inconspicuous |
| 3. An unsuccessful effort. | vain |
| 4. Describing an item that is heavily decorated. | ornately |
| 5. A small amount. | trifle |
| 6. Dangerous or risky. | perilous |

Making Sentences - Answers will vary.

Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Inconspicuous: _____
2. Ornately: _____
3. Vitality: _____
4. Perilous: _____
5. Vain: _____
6. Trifle: _____

**A Little
Extra!**

In Chapter 4, Claudia tells Jamie that something he wants to do is, "unnecessarily complicated". In your own words, explain what this phrase means.

Answers will vary.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story - Answer Key

Chapters 3 – 4

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 4, which gallery do Claudia and Jamie visit first for their studies?

- (a) Egyptian Art.
- (b) Greek and Roman Art.
- (c) **Italian Renaissance.**
- (d) Arms and Armor.

2. Which statue do Claudia and Jamie see in Chapter 4?

- (a) **Angel.**
- (b) David.
- (c) Cherub.
- (d) Michelangelo.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 3, what do Claudia and Jamie do with their bags when they first arrive at the museum?

Example - **Claudia and Jamie check their bags at the museum.**

Long Answer

4. From Chapter 3, describe where Claudia and Jamie sleep in the museum.

Example - **The 16th century bed has a tall canopy and an ornately carved headboard. It is the scene of the alleged murder of Amy Robsart. The bed is huge and smells musty. The draperies help hide Claudia and Jamie while they sleep.**

**A Little
Extra!**

What does Jamie find shocking about the museum cafeteria?

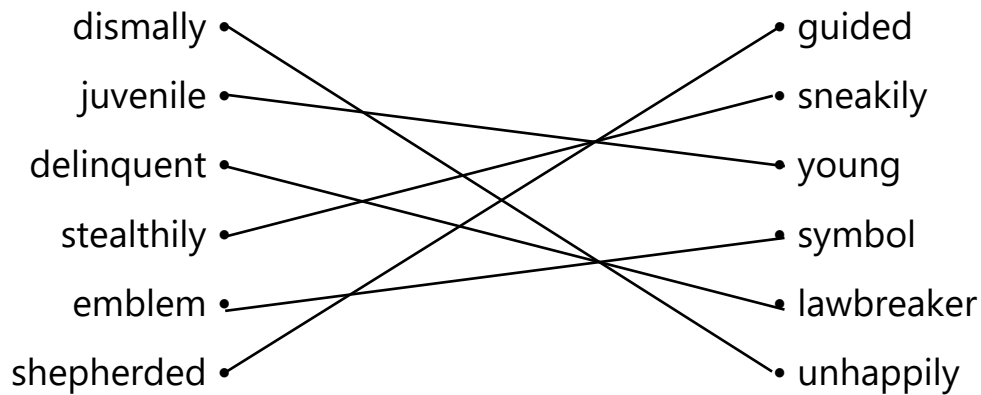
Example - **Jamie thinks the prices are very high.**

Vocabulary Study - Answer Key

Chapters 5 – 6

Match Up

A synonym is a word that means the same as another word. For example, happy and joyful are synonyms. Match the vocabulary words with their synonyms!



Best Word

Circle the word which works best in each sentence.

1. Jake had a bad cold and (**dismally** / juvenile) agreed to stay home from the game.
2. He had the school (shepherded / **emblem**) sewn on the outside of his jacket.
3. The (**juvenile** / delinquent) owl's feathers are much fluffier than the adult's.
4. He (emblem / **stealthily**) crawled up the fire escape.
5. An unknown (**delinquent** / stealthily) stole my bicycle last week.
6. The principal (dismally / **shepherded**) the students out of the auditorium.

A Little Extra!

How does the author describe Jamie's tension when he hears men talking in the museum after closing hours?

Examples - "**every corpuscle of Jamie's nine-year-old self was throbbing with readiness to run**"; "**It was trying to wrap a peck of loose potatoes into a neat four-cornered package.**"

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story - Answer Key

Chapters 5 – 6

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 5, where do Claudia and Jamie go to do research on the statue?

- (a) **The library.**
- (b) The museum bookstore.
- (c) The museum storage room.
- (d) The newspaper office.

2. What do Claudia and Jamie discover in Chapter 6?

- (a) The Angel statue.
- (b) **A symbol outlined in fabric.**
- (c) A sculpture damaged with pen marks.
- (d) A sculptor's signature.

Short Answer

3. Where do Claudia and Jamie take a bath in Chapter 5?

Example - **Claudia and Jamie take a bath in the museum restaurant fountain.**

Long Answer

4. From Chapter 6, describe Claudia and Jamie's plan to inform the museum about the statue's mark.

Example - **Claudia and Jamie will rent a PO box for a return address. They will type a letter explaining the mark using the free sample typewriter in front of the Olivetti place. When the museum asks for their help, they will reveal themselves as the heroes.**

**A Little
Extra!**

What kind of fabric is the angel statue sitting on?

Example - **The statue is sitting on velvet.**

Vocabulary Study - Answer Key

Chapters 7 – 8

Match Up

Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

stowaways	•	in a serious way
solemnly	•	an agreement made by a group
abrasions	•	excellent; cool
keen	•	people who hide on trains, ships, or planes
consensus	•	areas that are scraped away
righteously	•	doing something the right or moral way

Fill in the Blanks

Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

stowaways solemnly abrasions keen consensus righteously

- I got a **keen** pair of running shoes for my birthday.
- The **stowaways** hid in the back, behind the luggage.
- They **solemnly** listened to the funeral service.
- He had a lot of **abrasions** from falling off his bike.
- He **righteously** followed his religious beliefs.
- The class came to a **consensus** about which book to read next.

**A Little
Extra!**

Make a sentence using at least two of the vocabulary words.

Answers will vary.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story - Answer Key

Chapters 7 – 8

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 7, how long do Claudia and Jamie rent their post office box for?

- (a) 3 days.
- (b) 3 weeks.
- (c) **3 months.**
- (d) 3 years.

2. Where do Claudia and Jamie go to take a tour in Chapter 8?

- (a) **The United Nations building.**
- (b) The Egyptian Art gallery.
- (c) The Arms and Armory gallery.
- (d) The Empire State Building.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 7, which museum visitors do Claudia and Jamie recognize?

Example - **They recognize Jamie's 3rd grade class. They hear the voices of Miss Clendennan, Rube, Bruce, and Sarah.**

Long Answer

4. Summarize the Metropolitan Museum of Art's reply letter in Chapter 8.

Example - **The Metropolitan Museum already knows about the symbol on the bottom of the statue. Michelangelo did not carve all the marble blocks that were marked for him. There are three possibilities: a) Michelangelo carved Angel. b) Michelangelo designed Angel and someone else carved it. c) Michelangelo didn't carve or design Angel. No one ever mentioned Michelangelo making an Angel, but he wrote a letter mentioning an unknown piece he was sculpting for himself.**

**A Little
Extra!**

In Chapter 8, what does Jamie tell the ticket seller to explain why he and Claudia are not in school?

Example - **He tells her that the boiler at school exploded and classes have been canceled.**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vocabulary Study - Answer Key

Chapters 9 – 10

Which Word?

On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

paupers intrigued caper preoccupied maimed bequeathing

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Busy with something. | <i>preoccupied</i> |
| 2. Poor people. | <i>paupers</i> |
| 3. Leaving a valuable item to someone in a will. | <i>bequeathing</i> |
| 4. A crazy plan or scheme. | <i>caper</i> |
| 5. Aroused someone's interest or curiosity. | <i>intrigued</i> |
| 6. Badly injured. | <i>maimed</i> |

Making Sentences - *Answers will vary.*

Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Paupers: _____
2. Intrigued: _____
3. Caper: _____
4. Preoccupied: _____
5. Maimed: _____
6. Bequeathing: _____

**A Little
Extra!**

Use descriptive language to describe what you think Mrs. Frankweiler's butler, Parks, looks like.

Answers will vary.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story - Answer Key

Chapters 9 – 10

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 9, why does Claudia tell Jamie not to call her Lady Claudia anymore?

- (a) They are not at the museum.
- (b) **They are broke.**
- (c) They gave up finding out about Angel.
- (d) She doesn't like the nickname anymore.

2. How do the kids get home in Chapter 10?

- (a) **In Mrs. Basil's Rolls Royce.**
- (b) In a taxi cab.
- (c) On the train.
- (d) In a police car.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 9, what is Mrs. Basil wearing when the kids meet her?

Example - **She is wearing a white lab coat and pearl necklace.**

Long Answer

4. What do you think Jamie and Claudia will do with the sketch once they inherit it?

Answers will vary.

**A Little
Extra!**

What does Mrs. Frankweiler tell Saxonberg was found at the museum, left behind by Claudia and Jamie?

Example - **Their empty violin and trumpet cases, full of "grey-washed underwear and a cheap transistor radio".**

Time for a Test! - Answer Key

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

Part A – Multiple Choice

1. How does Claudia get the train pass in Chapter 1?

- (a) She takes it from her father's pocket.
- (b) She buys the train pass.
- (c) She steals it at the train station.
- (d) ***She picks it out of a wastebasket.***

2. In Chapter 1, what is Jamie's gambling game of choice?

- (a) Poker.
- (b) ***War.***
- (c) Black Jack.
- (d) Rummy.

3. In Chapter 2, where does Jamie think they are running away to?

- (a) The United Nations building.
- (b) Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- (c) ***The woods.***
- (d) The Statue of Liberty.

4. From Chapter 5, where in the museum do Claudia and Jamie hide in the mornings?

- (a) At the library.
- (b) In Angel's gallery.
- (c) In the restaurant.
- (d) ***Under the beds.***

5. In Chapter 5, how do Claudia and Jamie get more money?

- (a) ***They take coins out of the fountain.***
- (b) They pickpocket.
- (c) They find a wallet on the floor.
- (d) They get jobs.

6. In Chapter 5, how much money do Claudia and Jamie get?

- (a) \$0.87
- (b) ***\$2.87***
- (c) \$8.72
- (d) \$12.87

7. What do Claudia and Jamie do on Sunday in Chapter 6?

- (a) Go to church.
- (b) ***Pray at the Middle Ages chapel.***
- (c) Treat it like every other day.
- (d) Look at religious artwork.

8. Where do Claudia and Jamie end up in Chapter 8?

- (a) At the post office.
- (b) A drugstore.
- (c) ***Mrs. Basil's house.***
- (d) At home.

9. In Chapter 9, what is the name of the file that contains information about Angel?

- (a) ***Bologna, Italy.***
- (b) Michelangelo.
- (c) Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- (d) Angel.

Time for a Test! - Answer Key

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

Part B – Short Answer

1. Why does Claudia Kincaid want to run away from home at the beginning of the story?

Example - ***Claudia is bored with her life as the oldest girl with three younger brothers. She is tired of the "same old" family life and the feeling that she is overlooked and overworked as the oldest of the family and the only girl. She wants to run away to a wonderful place that is very unlike home – so she chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.***

2. The story is told from Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler's point of view, through a letter she is writing. How do you think the story might be different if it were told from Claudia's or Jamie's point of view (choose either Claudia or Jamie)?

Answers will vary.

3. Who is Saxonberg? What surprising fact do we learn about him at the end of the story?

Example - ***Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler is telling the story through a letter she is writing to "Saxonberg", who is addressed as her lawyer. Up until the end, the reader doesn't know who he is, why Mrs. Frankweiler is writing to him, or why she is so sure he would tell the Kincaids where Claudia and Jamie are. It turns out that he is not just her lawyer, but the grandfather of***

Part C – Long Answer

1. The setting is where and when a story takes place. Describe the main setting of *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*.

Example - ***The main setting of the story is the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Art. It is located in Manhattan, in New York City. The museum is open to the public and there is no entrance fee. 26,000 people visit it every day. There is a full restaurant and a snack bar. It has twenty acres of floor space and many different sections showcasing wonderful objects from all time periods. As Mrs. Frankweiler says, it is a wonderful and complicated place. Many school groups come through to see the exhibits. The museum has many different exhibits including Medieval Art, Arms and Armor, and sections of paintings and sculptures.***

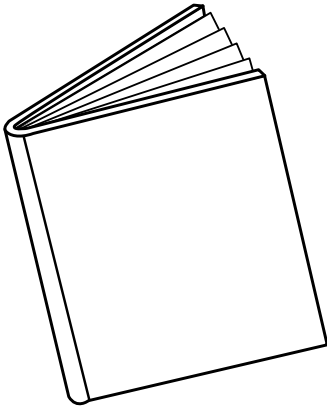
2. *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* can be described as a book about secrets. Explain why this is so.

Examples - ***The act of running away has to be kept secret, Claudia's plan about running away is secret (and Jamie eats his instructions); the children have to very secretive in the museum so they won't be discovered; the origin of the Angel statue is a secret; Mrs. Frankweiler wants to share secrets with the children; Claudia and Jamie have to promise to keep the truth about the statue to themselves.***

Name: _____

Date: _____

Before Reading



Title of Book: _____

Author of Book: _____

Have you read anything by this author before? If so, what was it?

Look at the front cover. What hints do you think it gives about the story?

Read the back cover. What do you learn about the story from the back cover?

Based on the front and back covers, do you want to read this book? Why or why not?

Name: _____

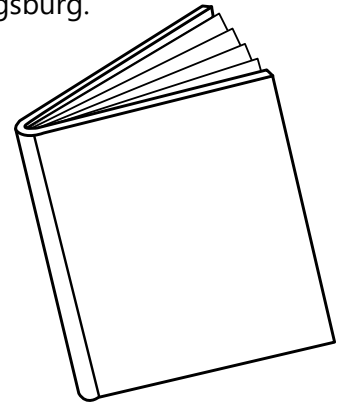
Date: _____

Who was E. L. Konigsburg?

Use the internet and other resources to research the author of *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, E. L. Konigsburg.

Before Researching

1. What do you already know about E. L. Konigsburg?



2. What do you want to find out about E. L. Konigsburg?

After Researching

3. What have you learned from your research?

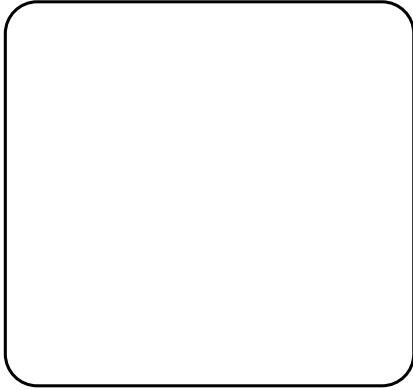
4. Where did you get your information?

Name: _____

Date: _____

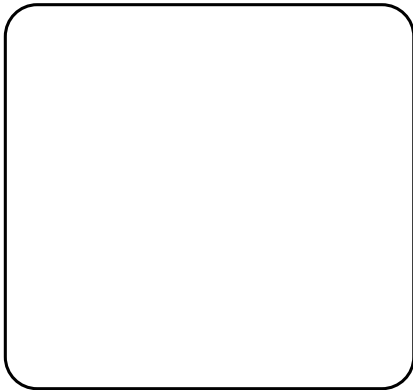
My Character Chart

Draw a picture and record important information about each important character as you read the text.



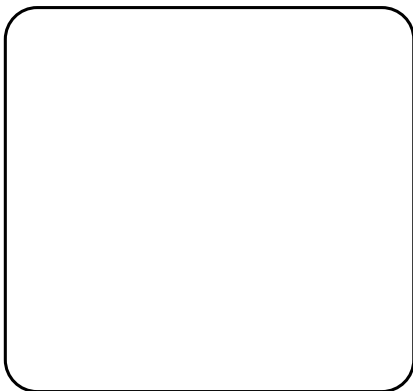
Character's Name: _____

Important Facts: _____



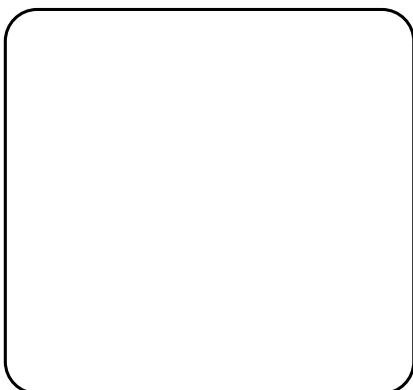
Character's Name: _____

Important Facts: _____



Character's Name: _____

Important Facts: _____



Character's Name: _____

Important Facts: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

My Character Chart (Cont'd)

Character's Name: _____

Important Facts: _____

Character's Name: _____

Important Facts: _____

Character's Name: _____

Important Facts: _____

Character's Name: _____

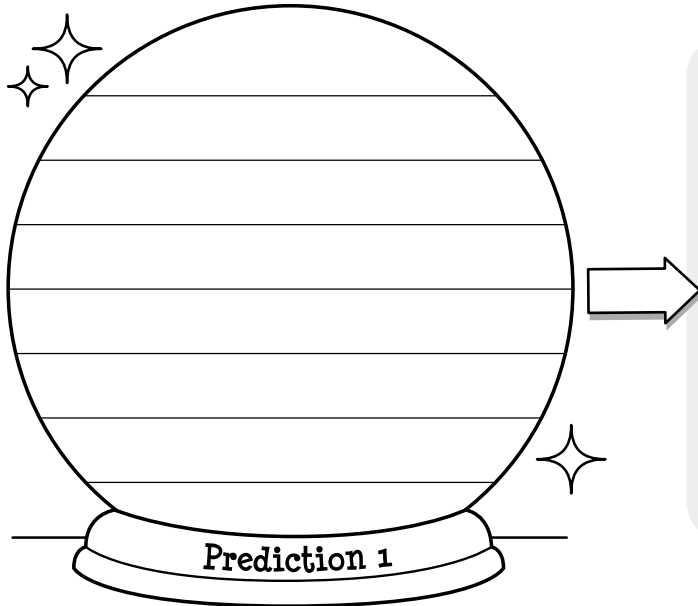
Important Facts: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

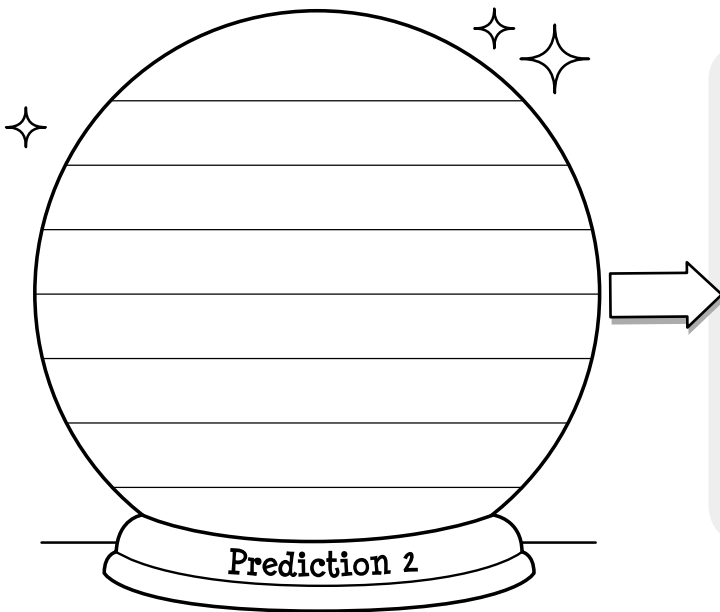
Making Predictions

Can you predict the future? What do you think will happen next in the story? Write down two predictions inside the crystal balls. Revisit this page later to answer the last question.



A large circle representing a crystal ball with horizontal lines inside. It sits on a small pedestal. The text "Prediction 1" is written on the pedestal. There are four sparkles around the ball. An arrow points from the right side of the ball to the right.

Why do you think this will happen?



A large circle representing a crystal ball with horizontal lines inside. It sits on a small pedestal. The text "Prediction 2" is written on the pedestal. There are four sparkles around the ball. An arrow points from the right side of the ball to the right.

Why do you think this will happen?

Did any of your predictions come true?

What ended up happening in the story?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Plot Mountain

A story's plot is made up of five parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and conclusion. After you've finished reading *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, fill in the spaces below.

3. Climax

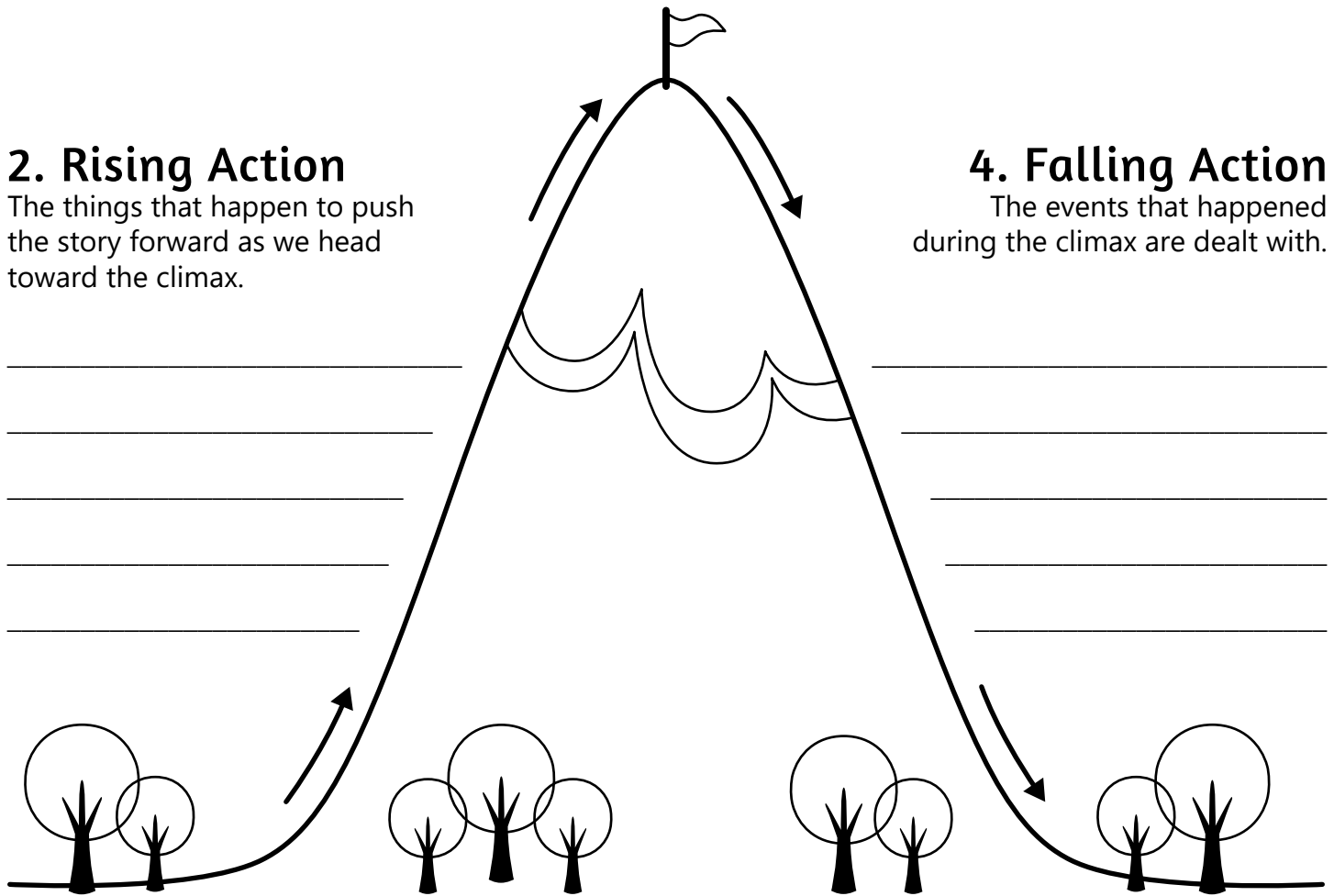
The most exciting and emotional part of the story.

2. Rising Action

The things that happen to push the story forward as we head toward the climax.

4. Falling Action

The events that happened during the climax are dealt with.



1. Exposition

We learn background information about the story's characters, setting, and basic plot.

5. Conclusion

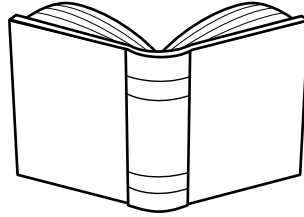
The story comes to an end.

Name: _____

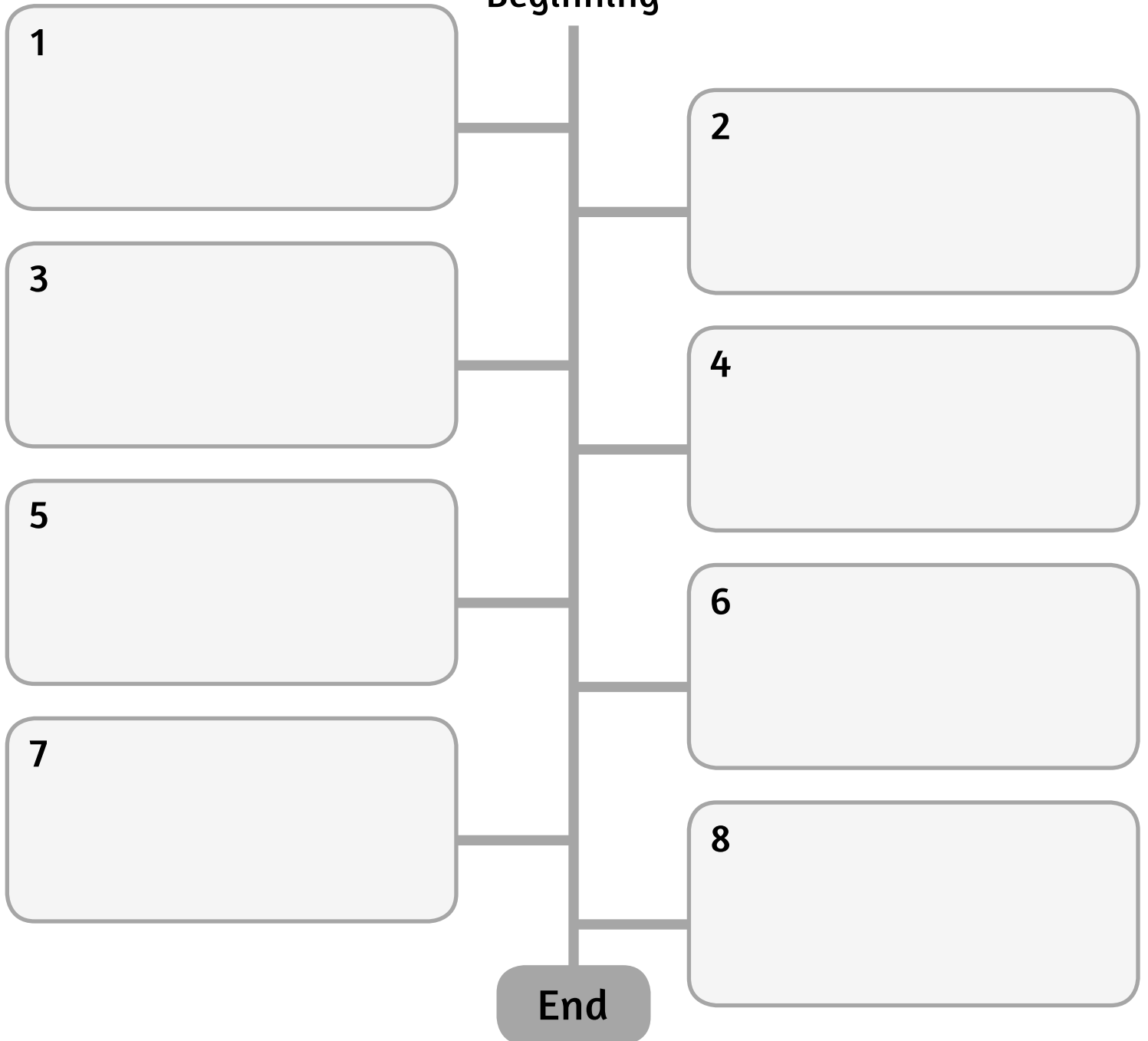
Date: _____

Story Timeline

Fill in the plot timeline by deciding on the most important plot points of *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and recording them in the order they happen.



Beginning



Name: _____

Date: _____

What is Conflict?

Conflict refers to the problems and challenges that make stories interesting and move plots along. Conflict is an important part of any story. Below are some of the different conflict types you may encounter as you read.

Man Versus Man

Two or more characters struggle against each other.

Man Versus Nature

A character struggles against a force of nature such as the weather or an animal.

Man Versus Society

A character struggles against a part of society such as a company, religion, school, etc.

Man Versus Self

A character struggles to overcome his or her own weaknesses.

Look for some examples of conflict in *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and add them to the chart below.

Example of Conflict	Type of Conflict

Name: _____

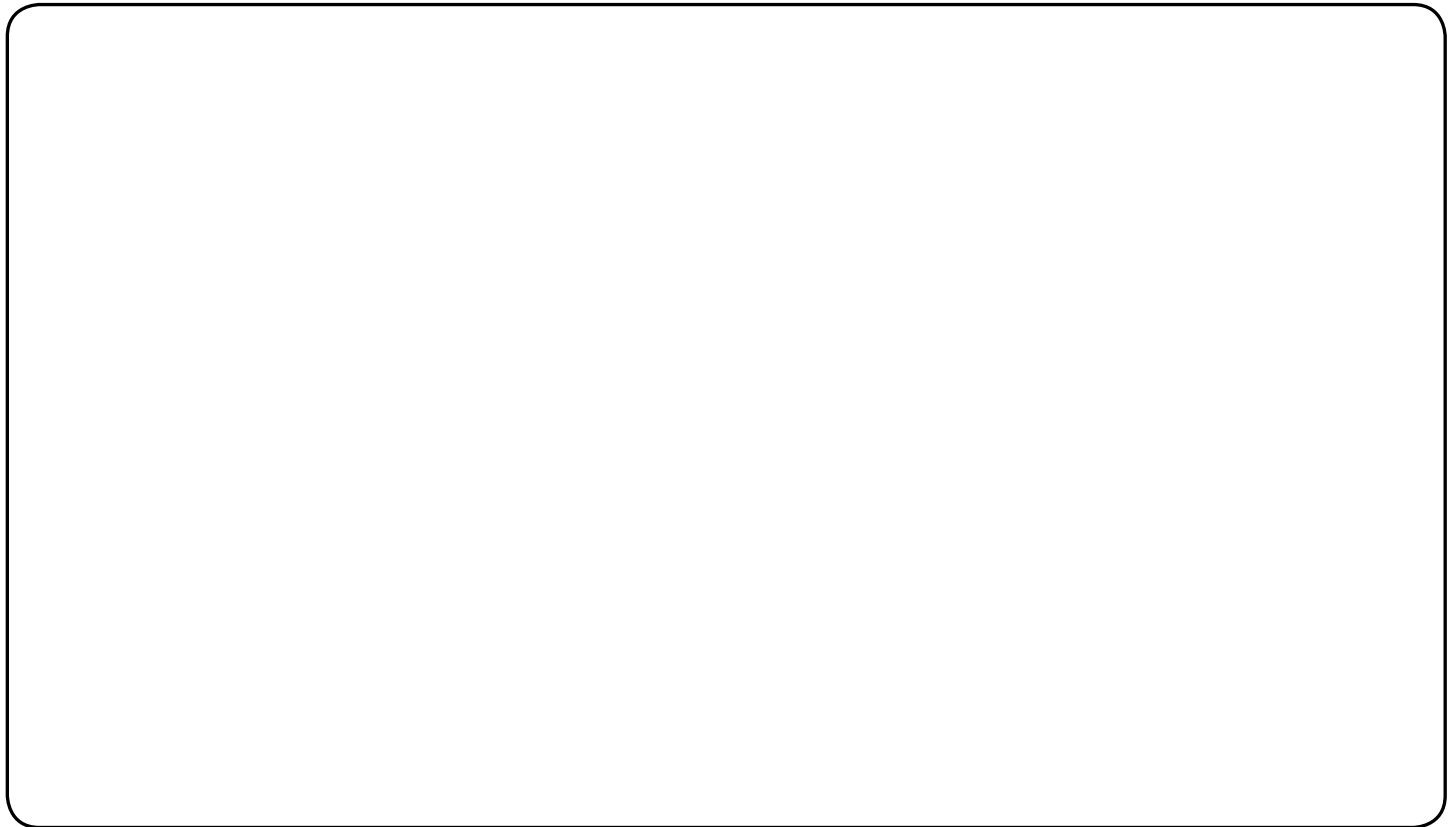
Date: _____

Story Setting

The setting is the time and/or place in which a story happens.

1. Describe the setting of *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. When and where does it take place?

2. Draw a picture of a setting described in the story.



3. Explain what you have drawn above.

Name: _____

Date: _____

What is a Theme?

The theme a central topic or idea of a story. A story can have one or more themes. Some examples of themes are acceptance, cooperation, bravery and determination. What do you think one theme of *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* is?

One theme of *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* is...

Find three examples from the book that supports this as one of the themes.

1. _____

2. _____


3. _____

Name: _____


Date: _____

Problem Solving

An important part of any story is the problem which the main character faces. Write down the main problem faced in *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* below, then brainstorm some possible solutions to the problem.




Solution Idea 1




Solution Idea 2

The Main Problem of the Story



Solution Idea 3



Solution Idea 4

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cause and Effect

An action or development in a story is the 'cause'. The result of the action or development is the 'effect'. Find some examples of cause and effect in *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and record them below.

Cause		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	▶	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
		Effect

Cause		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	▶	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
		Effect

Cause		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	▶	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
		Effect

Name: _____

Date: _____

Character Types

In fictional stories, there are many different types of characters that play different roles. Read about different character types below, and decide which character from *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* fits each character type. (Some characters may fit more than one character type).

Major Characters

Major characters play a big part in the story. They influence the plot and take part in solving the main problem of the story.

Example(s) from the book:

Minor Characters

Minor characters pop up to help (or hurt) the story's major characters.

Example(s) from the book:

The Protagonist

The protagonist is the main character of the story. Stories are often told from their point of view.

Example(s) from the book:

The Antagonist

The antagonist is the character (or characters) who causes problems for the protagonist.

Example(s) from the book:

Dynamic Characters

Dynamic characters change through the story, usually because they overcome a challenge which makes them grow as a person.

Example(s) from the book:

Static Characters

Static characters do not change. Their personalities and attitudes are the same at the end of the story as they were at the beginning.

Example(s) from the book:

Round Characters

Round characters have complicated personalities and more than one character trait.

Example(s) from the book:

Flat Characters

Flat characters don't have complicated personalities. Readers know them by only one character trait.

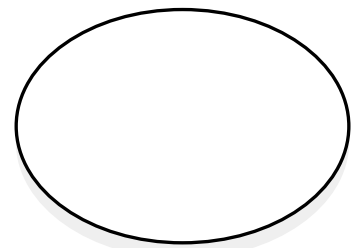
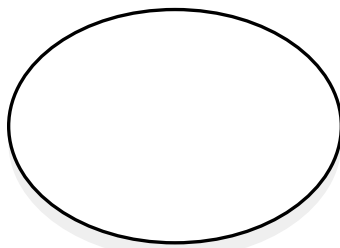
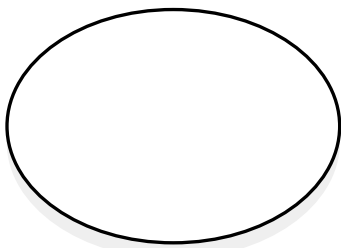
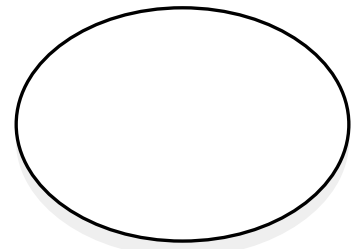
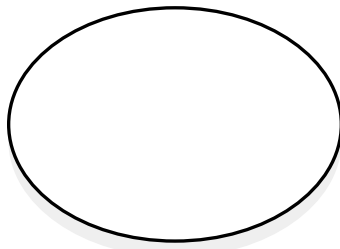
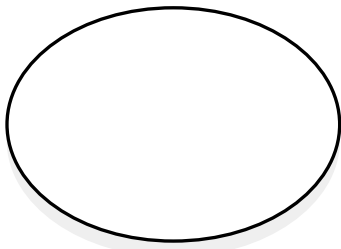
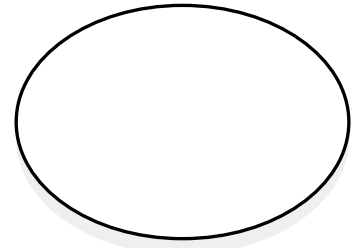
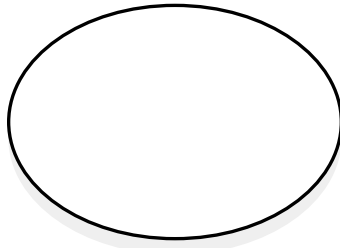
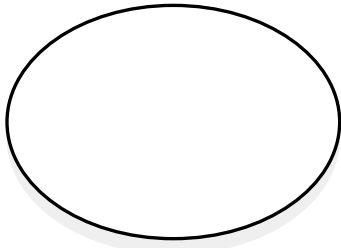
Example(s) from the book:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Character Map

Write a different character name in each bubble below. Then, draw different styles of lines in different colors (as shown in the Relationship Key) to show the relationships between each character.



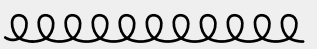
Relationship Key

Friends - - - - -

Family 

Enemies 

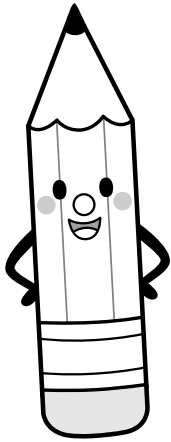
Classmates/Co-workers 

Teacher/Boss 

Other 

Name: _____

Date: _____



Facts and Opinions

A fact is something that is proven to be true.

An example of a fact is, "The month after July is August".

An opinion is a feeling or belief about something.

An example of an opinion is, "July is the best month of the year!"

In the spaces below, record four facts and four opinions about *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*.

F
A
C
T
S

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

O
P
I
N
I
O
N
S

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

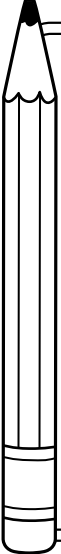
4. _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Quotation Quest

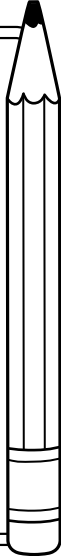
Skim the novel and write down three favorite quotations, or quotations you think are important to the story.



Quotation: _____

_____ From page # _____

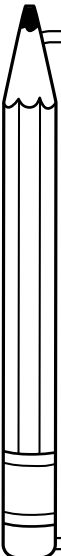
Why I chose this quotation: _____



Quotation: _____

_____ From page # _____

Why I chose this quotation: _____



Quotation: _____

_____ From page # _____

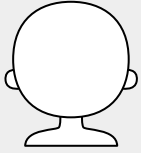
Why I chose this quotation: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

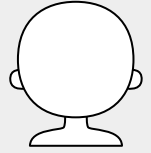
Character Comparison

Choose two characters from *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and compare them to each other. What are their similarities and what are their differences?



Character 1

Character 2



The similarities these characters share





The differences between these characters



Character 1

Character 2

Name: _____

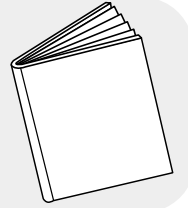
Date: _____

Story Comparison

Compare *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* to another story you have read. What are their similarities and what are their differences?



*From the Mixed-up
Files of Mrs. Basil E.
Frankweiler*

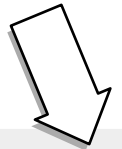


The similarities these stories share





The differences between these stories



Name: _____

Date: _____

My Life - Making Connections

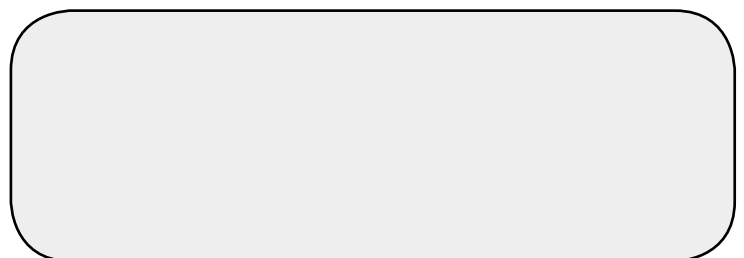
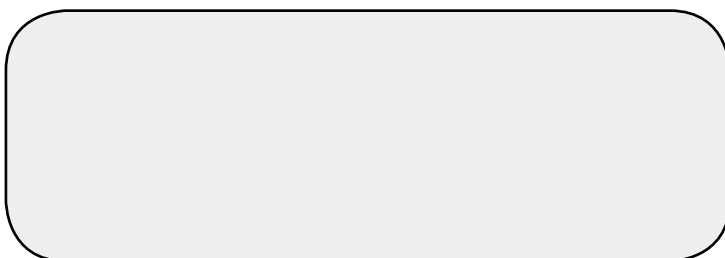
In the spaces below, make comparisons between your life and the life of a character of your choosing from *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*.

Character Name: _____

Similarities



Differences



Name: _____

Reading Log

Record information about the books you read on this chart.

Comments							
# of Pages							
Author							
Book Title							

Common Core State Standards

This novel study is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (U.S.)

Grade 3

RL3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RL3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

RL3.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

RL3.5 Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

RL3.6 Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

L3.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

L3.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

L3.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

Grade 4

RL4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RL4.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

RL4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

RL4.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

L4.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

L4.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Grade 5

RL5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

RL5.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

RL5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

RL5.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

L5.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

L5.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

THE BOOK UMBRELLA

Novel Study
**FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF
MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER**

by E. L. Konigsburg

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