

TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: *FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER*

Show and Theatre Company:

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

Art Form:

- A musical – a story with songs
 - ? Can you think of other musicals?

Context:

- Based on a book by author E.L. Konigsburg.
 - ? Have you ever read this book?
- The book tells the story of a brother and sister who run away from home because they feel unappreciated and live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. They end up becoming fascinated with the museum's newest statue and try to find out more about the person who donated it.
 - ? Have you ever been to a museum? What kinds of things did you see?
- You can view many of the Met's art exhibitions online at metmuseum.org.
 - ? Which ones do you most wish you could see in person? Which ones make you want to learn more about them?

Main Characters:

- Claudia Kincaid – a 12-year-old girl who gets good grades and helps with chores at home but feels unappreciated by her parents, so she plans to run away. Claudia is organized and likes to plan.
- Jamie Kincaid – Claudia's 9-year-old brother who is secretive, frugal, and adventurous. Claudia chooses him to run away with her.
 - ? If you had to pick a friend or family member to go on an adventure with, who would you pick and why?
 - ? When going on a trip, do you like to plan things or stay spontaneous?
- Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – a smart, rich, eccentric woman in her 80s who donates a mysterious statue to the museum.

Special Things to Look for:

- ? Claudia and Jamie make an elaborate plan to hide in the museum. What parts of their plan work? What parts go wrong?
- ? How does Claudia and Jamie's relationship change?
- ? The actors are on a stage, not in a museum – instead, they create a set that *looks* like a museum. What do you notice about the set? What makes it look like a museum? If you were going to create a set that looks like a museum in your house, what could you use?
- ? If you have read the book, how is this different from the book? How is it the same?

Virtual Theater Etiquette:

As you watch this show, try to immerse yourself as you would if you were at the theater in person.

- Find a quiet space to watch.
- Respect your space – in the theater, we don't put our feet on the seats in front of us or jump and down in our chairs; wherever you're watching this, treat your space with the same level of respect.
- Limit distractions.
- Use the restroom before the show starts so you won't miss anything.
- Put any other electronic devices away.
- Clap when you see something you love!

Show Info: *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* • November 2020 • Grades 2-6