



Popularity: ★★★★★

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From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler (Jun 1967)

Review: EBSCONovelist

Author: [Konigsburg, E. L.](#)



Description: Claudia and her brother run away to **the** Metropolitan Museum **of** Art, where she sees a statue so beautiful, she must identify its sculptor. To find out, she must visit **the** statue's former owner, **the** elderly **Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**.

Genre: Realistic **fiction**; Page to screen; Classics

Themes: Running away

Character: Spunky; Believable

Storyline: Plot-driven

Tone: Upbeat

Writing Style:Attention-grabbing

Min/Max Grade level:4 - 6

Lexile: 700 **Accelerated Reader:** IL: MG, BL: 4.7, AR Pts: 5

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Kirkus:

/ Starred Review */* Elaine Konigsburg's first sharp bite of suburban life, Jennifer, He- cate, Macbeth...(131, J-43) was a dilly; this one's a dandy--just as fast and fresh and funny, but less spoofing, more penetrating. From the files of Mrs . Frankweiler comes the chronicle of Claudia Kincaid, almost twelve, and her brother Jamie, who is nine. Tired of being her same old taken-for-granted self, Claudia decides to run away, and Jamie goes along because he is flattered at being asked. Claudia has planned every detail: escape on the empty school bus, change of clothing in a violin case, sanctuary in the Metropolitan Museum. For a week the children elude the guards and exploit the opportunities of the museum: they sleep in a royal bed, bathe in the cafeteria pool, and pass part of each day in study on the fringe of lecture tours. Midweek, a marble angel of dubious origin arrives; Claudia is convinced that it is a Michelangelo and determines to prove it: she will authenticate Angel and become a heroine before going home. But no--by arrangement of Mrs . Frankweiler , she goes home a heroine only to herself (and happy); and she knows something about secrets she hadn't known before--they have to come to an end... Like the title, Mrs . Frankweiler is a bit of a nuisance; and an offhand, rather bemused reference to dope addiction is unnecessary but not inappropriate. What matters is that beyond the intriguing central situation and its ingenious, very natural development, there's a deepening rapport between their parents; "we're well trained (and sure of ourselves)...just look how nicely we've managed. It's really they're fault if we're not homesick." There may be a run on the Metropolitan (a map is provided); there will surely be a run on the book. (Kirkus Reviews, September 1 , 1967)

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Genre

Classics

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Realistic fiction

Storyline

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Tone

Upbeat

Writing Style

Attention-grabbing

Location

New York City

Theme

Running away

Subject

Art museums

Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)

Rich senior women

Runaway children

Senior women

Siblings

Statues

Character

Believable

Spunky

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