

From The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler - e.l. Konigsburg

Themes:

1. Identity - not being appreciated or recognized for uniqueness/change
 - Tired of being Claudia, tired of routine dullness
 - I want to go back a different me, I didn't run away to go back home the same
 - Knowledge makes you special and different
2. Learn new things, but don't just accumulate facts. Immerse yourself in them enough to appreciate them fully. Allow time to absorb them and change. Carry beauty and knowledge within.
3. Teamwork with Claudia and Jamie - stick together through thick and thin
 - Collaborate using each person's strength
 - Compromise
 - Family conflict - work out problems
4. If you want to achieve something beautiful, make and follow a plan
 - There's beauty in strategy and details
5. The adventure is discovering "what makes you." Characters grow and change.
6. Museums are amazing places. What is their purpose and how do they carry it out?
7. How museums evaluate works of art. The work of art historians.

Questions about Mia before the tour:

1. What is your experience with museums?
2. What are you interested in learning more about during your visit?
3. Why do people go to museums and why do museums collect objects?
4. What do you expect to see at a museum? What would you collect in your own museum?
5. Can you think of a slogan or advertisement which might encourage your friends to visit Mia?

Questions about your connection to the book :

1. Do you ever feel taken for granted?
2. Who would you take with you on an adventure?
3. What do you need in order to have an adventure?
4. What would you do on your adventure? Where would you go?
5. What is special about you?
6. Have you ever felt the need to prove that you're special?
7. Have you ever been away from home and missed your family?

Questions about the plot and characters:

1. How would you describe Claudia and Jamie each in 10 words or less?
2. What problem do the children try to solve while they stay at the museum?
3. How does their research help Claudia feel important and special?
4. Why is Mrs. Frankweiler interested in two children she doesn't know?

5. What makes Mrs. Frankweiler decide to help them and what does she do to make honor their intelligence?
6. What do the children learn during their time away from home?
7. How do you think they'll get along with their family when they return?
8. Act out a dialogue between Claudia and her mother or father when they reunite.
9. Act out a dialogue between Jamie and Bruce on the school bus after they return.

Questions after the tour:

1. What object that you saw would do you wonder about and want to find out more about?
2. What room would want to stay in?
3. If you could take something home, what would it be?
4. How do you think museums choose what's important?
5. If you could open your own museum, what would be your theme? What would you include?
6. If you were the tour guide, what would you tell people about the objects?

Works of art:

1. Egyptian pieces
2. The fountain
3. The Connecticut Room and other rooms
4. Large Chinese Jars
5. The sarcophagus
6. Angels
7. Frank Big Bear - "Untitled" (2012) - Identity, Details, Change
8. Oddfellows - Cooperation, Teamwork
9. Cinthya Soto - "Verduleria La Modeda" (2005) - Take time to absorb, immerse yourself
10. Thomas Struth - "Galleria Dell Accademia - Florence" (2004) - Museums What are they seeing?
11. David Sengel - "Family Portrait" - (2000) - Family conflict, cooperation, teamwork
12. Mia Model and details of building architecture - Museums and their purpose
13. Portraits of children
14. Initiation masks or objects - Identity, growing up, change
15. Unusual objects like the Tesla - How museums choose what to include