

Reading List for Rising Fifth Graders, Summer 2025

What better way to spend a summer day than with a good book! We will all be reading at least two books this summer – *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and another book of your choosing. Happy reading!

Required Reading (and assignment): *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, by E.L. Konigsburg

There are four sheets attached: Story Timeline, Persuasive Writing Sheet, Quotation Quest, and Character Comparison. Please complete these sheets after you read the book; we will use them to discuss the book and complete a writing assignment when we return in August.

Additional Reading Please choose at least one additional book that you have not read before. The following list contains some great options for this part of the assignment, but you may read one not on the list, as long as you haven't read it before.

Any biography about a saint or a famous person in history.

Cody, Matthew, *Powerless*: A story of friendship among a group of boys who use their superpowers to do good deeds in their town. This is a delightful book!

Curtis, Christopher Paul, *The Mighty Miss Malone*: Set during the Great Depression, this is a story about twelve-year-old Deza Malone. A smart student, she has been told by teachers that she is destined for greatness. Deza embarks on a family adventure filled with humor and unexpected twists. This Newberry Medal winner is sure to be an entertaining summer book!

Dahl, Roald : *The BFG*. If you like giants, you will love this story.

Ersine, Kathryn. *Mockingbird*: In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white, good or bad....until the death of her brother. Her world turns from black and white to beautiful shades of color.

Fehler, Gene, *Never Blame the Umpire*: Kate is having the best summer a sports-loving eleven-year-old could possibly have. Baseball. Tennis. And to top it off, Kate has just started a three-week class where she's discovering a new love: poetry. Then comes the news that tears Kate's world apart. In her close-knit family, Kate has always felt God's love and protection. But how can she trust God now? Do sports or poetry matter when tragedy strikes?

Gipson, Fred, *Old Yeller*: A boy and a big yellow dog form a deep friendship. Action, adventure, and true heartache. A classic.

Law, Ingrid: *Savvy*. Fantasy, magic! A quick and enjoyable read! The sequel, *Scumble*, is also quite engaging and fun.

London, Jack: *The Call of the Wild*. Buck has always been a peaceful animal, until one day he is kidnapped and made to work as a sled dog in the harsh Yukon Territory. Can this dog find a way to trust men again or will he revert to his ancient canine instincts? Full of action and adventure!

Mass, Wendy: *The Candy Makers*. A charming story with mystery. It's a real cliff-hanger!

Medina, Meg, *Milagros, Girl From Away*: Meg Medina creates a fantastical world in which a young girl uncovers the true meaning of family, the significance of identity, and the power of a mother's love.

North, Sterling, *Rascal*: This heartwarming and delightful memoir of a boy's friendship with a wild animal, and his growing awareness of the world around him, has become a treasured classic.

Paolini, Christopher, *Eragon*: When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself.

Rawls, Wilson. *Summer of the Monkeys*: A reward for finding the monkeys that escaped from a circus motivates Jay Berry Lee to brave the wilds of the Cherokee Ozarks. He faces many dangers and challenges. If you love adventure in the great outdoors, you will love this book!

Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief*: Percy Jackson can't quite believe that there really are mythological characters. It's worth reading just for the chapter titles – Chapter 1: I Accidentally Vaporize My Pre-algebra Teacher. You may read other books in this series as well.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*, (1999 Newbery Medal Winner): Just why are those boys digging holes in the hot sun? An incredible tale of bad luck and fate unfolds in this award-winning book.

Schmidt, Gary D. *Straw into Gold*: This is a magical tale of fantasy and adventure in which two boys must solve a riddle in seven days; their lives depend on it.

Sewell, Anna : *Black Beauty* . Written in the first person from the horse's perspective, this book reveals the plight of the workhorse in the 19th Century. Perfect for horse lovers!

Speare, Elizabeth George: *Witch of Blackbird Pond*. Kit Tyler is accused of witchcraft while trying to be a friend! Read on to find out what happens to Kit.

Speare, Elizabeth George: *Sign of the Beaver*. Matt, a twelve-year-old boy, is stranded in the wilderness without his family. He encounters a kind man who turns out to be a thief and befriends an Indian boy as he waits for the return of his family. The ending is both happy and sad. This is a great book for young people who enjoy adventure and unexpected endings.

Sterling, Dorothy. *Freedom Train*: This biography of Harriet Tubman, a champion of the Underground Railroad, is sure to interest students who love history. Harriet Tubman lived to serve and save others. Her story is full of danger, excitement, and sacrifice.

Stevenson, Robert Louis: *Treasure Island*. Treasure and pirates – a great combination.

Swanson, James: *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Fast, fun, and full of intrigue. A true story and a challenging read, but well worth it!

Twain, Mark: *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. A small town, a small boy, and a great deal of tricks and adventures.

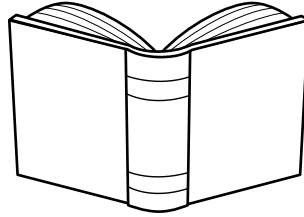
Wells, H.G.: *The Time Machine*. Travel back in time **and** into the future in this extraordinary tale.

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

1

2

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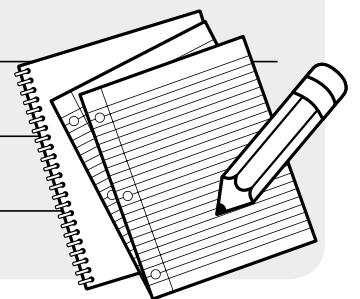
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End

Date:_____

Write a persuasive passage in which you try to convince your readers that they should either read or not read *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. Make sure to include reasons for why you think the story is good or bad using examples from the text. For example, if you tell your readers that the story is funny, tell them about something funny that happens in the book.

Don't read this book!


[illegible]

Name: _____

Date: _____

Quotation Quest

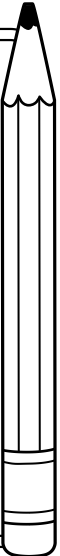
Skim the novel and write down three favorite quotations, or quotations you think are important to the story.



Quotation: _____

_____ From page # _____


Why I chose this quotation: _____



Quotation: _____

_____ From page # _____

Why I chose this quotation: _____



Quotation: _____

_____ From page # _____

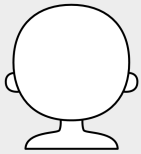
Why I chose this quotation: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

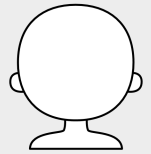
Character Comparison

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
