# From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler



by E.L. Konigsburg

## Lit Link Grades 4-6

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## % • Chapter 1 •

## Before you read the chapter:

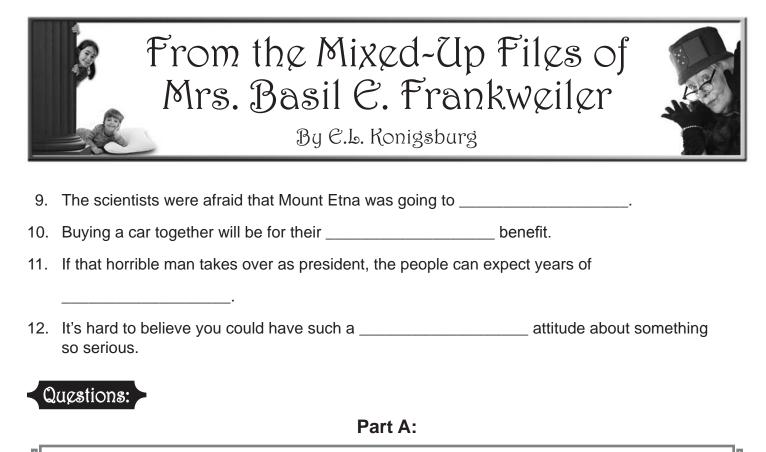
Careful planning is usually critical to success. An ancient proverb says: "He who fails to plan, plans to fail." Describe a time in your life (or that of a friend) when careful planning played an important and memorable role in the achievement of success.

## Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

Ĺ		erupt despised	tyranny intended		mutual elegant	casual monotony
1.	Despite the	circumstances,	Sarah had neve	r	for her I	mother to find her.
2.	He is a very own.	timid boy and it	t is doubtful whet	her he would		out on his
3.	The worst p straight hou	•	the	of work	king on an asse	embly line for eight
4.	It was most	obvious that all	of the children _		the new p	rincipal.
5.	"I never real surprise.	lized your comp	any	in suc	h a product," m	y aunt said in
6.	After attending finishing school, Claudia was a most young lady.				young lady.	
7.	Before being	g of much value	, the ore has to b	)e	into go	old.
8.	Despite the sense.	fact that he is a	n accountant, his	s ideas don't make	a lot of	

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### The Letter to Saxonberg

This novel is written from a most unusual and unique perspective. Mrs. Frankweiler's letter to her lawyer, Saxonberg, at the beginning of the novel, provides the reader with a good deal of mystery and suspense. While reading this puzzling letter, the reader wonders why she was writing to her lawyer and what it was that caused her to change her will. No doubt these mysteries will be revealed as the plot unfolds.

1. From this letter, what impression do you get of Mrs. Frankweiler's personality?

2. What was she sending along with the letter to Saxonberg?



#### Part B:

- 1. Describe the setting of the story. Remember, setting includes both time and place.
- 2. Match each of the four Kincaid children with the correct description:
  - a) Claudia
- Left a messy basket on purpose
- b) Stevec) Jamie

• Six years old

d) Kevin

• Straight-A student

• The chosen brother

- 3. Claudia mentions that she would like to bring Jamie's transistor radio along on their trip. Why would this item be useful?
- 4. Describe how Claudia came up with a free train pass. Why was this so important to her plans?
- 5. a) What card game did Jamie and Bruce enjoy playing on the bus.
  - b) What did Claudia find disgusting about their daily routine?

c) How did this card game come to benefit Claudia's plans?



6. What was the "lever" that Claudia used in convincing Jamie to join her plan?

7. What does the fact that Claudia and Jamie planned on packing extra clothes tell you about her plans? How might this complicate things?

Language Activities:

#### Prefixes

In Chapter 1, Jamie has difficulty using the proper prefix with the word *decent*.

A prefix is defined as a syllable or syllables put at the beginning of another word to change its meaning.

An example would be *dislike*, where the prefix *dis* is added to the word *like* to radically alter the original meaning.

Below are five words with prefixes found in Chapter 1. Beside each word, write the root word from which it is derived, then choose one of the words and use it in a sentence that demonstrates its correct meaning.

1.	discomfort					
2.	inconvenient					
3.	injustice					
4.	indecent					
5.	impatient					
Sentence:						