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

by [E. L. Konigsburg](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/e-l-konigsburg)

Interest Level: Grade 3 - Grade 7

Grade Level Equivalent: 6.8

Lexile® measure: 700L

DRA: 50

Guided Reading: S

Genre/Theme: Adventure Classics

Topics: Art and Artists, Siblings, Runaways

**About This Book**

Bored with her life, twelve-year-old Claudia Kincaid is ready for a big change. In fact, she wants to run away from home. But she doesn't like discomfort. She doesn't even like picnics. So an old-fashioned, knapsack kind of running away is out of the question. Instead of running from somewhere, she decides to run *to* somewhere — some place comfortable, and preferably beautiful. Where else, but the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City? Fare on the train from the suburbs takes three weeks of skipping hot fudge sundaes. Taking Jamie, the second youngest of her three brothers — the quiet one with the largest cache of money — with her, Claudia's life is immediately changed in a big way. Nights she and Jamie take baths in one of the museum's fountains and they sleep in royal beds in the museum's collection, despite the "Please do not step on the platform" sign. Every day they check out by 4:30 and reenter the museum around the back at 5:30. To remain inconspicuous, Claudia and Jamie join school-group tours by day, and when the museum closes, stand on the toilets in the bathroom stalls out of view from the guards checking for strays, but she and Jamie's vacation from their "real" life turns into an adventure when Angel, a sculpture rumored to have been carved by Michelangelo, arrives. Will they solve a mystery that even the experts can't solve?

Author Konigsburg's tale of a young girl's escape into a search for identity — her own and Angel's — in one of the world's greatest museums was awarded a 1967 Newbery Medal, as well as named an American Library Association Notable Book, and "Best of the Best" by the *School Library Journal*. Illustrated by Konigsburg's own expressionistic line drawings, the book remains a modern classic.

**The Borrowers**

by [Mary Norton](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/mary-norton) illustrated by [Joe Krush](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/joe-krush), [Beth Krush](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/beth-krush)

Interest Level: Grade 3 - Grade 5

Grade Level Equivalent: 5.9

Lexile® measure: 780L

DRA: 40

Guided Reading: S

Book Type: Chapter Book

Genre/Theme: Dictionaries Series Science Fiction and Fantasy

Topics: Courage Loyalty Extended Families

**About This Book**

There aren't many miniature people left in the world today! But the Borrowers quietly and secretly make their living borrowing from the "human beans" they live with.

"The magic and charm of the writing convinces children and grown-ups, too, that the Borrowers really do exist." — *School Library Journal*

Pod, Homily, and Arrietty Clock's huge adventures have been thrilling children young and old for fifty years -- and their appeal is as strong as ever in these handsome new paperback packages. While the original beloved interior illustrations by Beth and Joe Krush have been retained, Marla Frazee's striking cover illustrations capture these little people with a larger-than-life appeal.

**Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade**

by [Barthe DeClements](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/barthe-declements)

Interest Level: Grade 4 - Grade 6

Grade Level Equivalent: 5.2

Lexile® measure: 600L

DRA: 40

Guided Reading: R

Genre/Theme: Realistic Fiction

Topics: Compassion and Honesty Pride and Self-Esteem Friends and Friendship Elementary School Friends and Friendship

**About This Book**

In this award-winning, national bestseller, Elsie Edwards is the new girl in the fifth grade. But she is overweight and miserable. Her new classmates dislike her because they find her disgusting. And Elsie even steals their lunch money. When Jenny, another fifth grader, befriends Elsie, she begins to feel more comfortable in school. And the other students begin appreciating Elsie's good qualities. And while nothing seems to be fair in fifth grade, "some things are not as bad as they seem."

Author Barthe DeClements creates real, complex characters that readers will be able to identify with and understand. While readers feel for Elsie, they also appreciate why other kids dislike her so much. Issues of friendship, identity and acceptance are all addressed in a warm, humorous manner. Anyone who has ever believed that nothing is fair will enjoy this novel. (Please note that attitudes regarding how to deal with overweight children have changed dramatically since this book was first published in 1981.)

"A humorous tale that rocks with fifth-grade truth." — *Booklist*

**Heads or Tails:** Stories from the Sixth Grade by [Jack Gantos](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/jack-gantos)

Interest Level: Grade 6 - Grade 8

Grade Level Equivalent: 4.9

Lexile® measure: 750L

Guided Reading: NR

Genre/Theme: General Fiction

Topics: Culture and Diversity Friends and Friendship

## About This Book

Jack's life is a crazy roller-coaster ride. At his fifth school in six years, he has a crackpot teacher who won’t give him a break about his lousy handwriting and a secret crush who wants to be a policewoman. At home, he has a pesty little brother with a knack for breaking an arm whenever Jack's supposed to be looking after him, a terror for an older sister, all sorts of weird neighbors, and, last but not least, ferocious alligators in the canal behind his house. Writing in his diary about his good days and bad days is one way Jack survives his up-and-down year but he's also a kid who knows that life can go any which way at any given moment. He might as well flip a coin: heads he wins, tails he loses, what will turn up next?

**Shiloh**

([Shiloh](http://www.scholastic.com/tbw/quickSearch.do?N=0+$&fq=Series:%5eShiloh%5e&Ntk=TBW_QuickSearch_SI&Ntx=mode+matchallpartial), Book #1)

by [Phyllis Reynolds Naylor](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/phyllis-reynolds-naylor)

Interest Level: Grade 3 - Grade 5

Grade Level Equivalent: 5.7

Lexile® measure: 890L

DRA: 40

Guided Reading: R

Book Type: Chapter Book

Genre/Theme: Realistic Fiction

Topics: Character and Values Courage and Honor Equality, Fairness and Justice

**About This Book**

When 11-year-old Marty Preston finds a young beagle up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia, he is convinced that the poor pup is in trouble. Certain that the dog is being abused by his owner, Judd Travers, Marty names him "Shiloh" and immediately feels that he will do anything to save the dog from further harm. When the dog runs away from Judd to Marty's house, Marty is faced with a number of ethical dilemmas: Should he tell his parents? Should he return the dog to the abusive Judd? Should he steal food to feed the mistreated pup? Marty finds that there is a fine line between telling the truth and lying by omission. He struggles to stand on the principles he knows are right, even if they go against the law. As Marty's half-truths begin to pile up, however, the villainous Judd comes closer and closer to finding Shiloh, who Marty has hidden in the woods. Then when Marty discovers that Judd is poaching, he blackmails him and makes a deal to work for Judd to pay for the dog, but this is not what he tells his parents. In the end, readers will rejoice when Marty and Shiloh are allowed to be together.

Acclaimed author Phyllis Reynolds Naylor writes in a folksy, down-home style as she spins the story of Marty's efforts to find his way through a complicated situation. Insightfully, Marty concludes that "nothing is as simple as you guess — not right or wrong, not Judd Travers, not even me or this dog." A Newberry Medal winner, this suspenseful story contains memorable characterizations that take a sharp look at the best and the worst in human nature.

**Dolphin Tale: The Junior Novel**

by [Gabrielle Reyes](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/gabrielle-reyes)

Interest Level: Grade 3 - Grade 5

Grade Level Equivalent: 4.2

Genre/Theme: Realistic Fiction Movie Tie-In

Topics: Friends and Friendship

**About This Book**

Based on the hit 3-D movie, this easy-to-read true story is illustrated with stills from the film. When a dolphin named Winter loses her tail in a crab trap, it's up to a young boy named Sawyer and the staff at Clearwater Marine Aquarium to help her survive against the odds. Sawyer is quiet at first, but his special connection with Winter soon brings the boy out of his shell. One day, after visiting his cousin at an army hospital, Sawyer gets an idea to have a doctor there make Winter a prosthetic tail. This proposal inspires the staff at the aquarium and fills Sawyer with the hope that Winter may one day swim again. Sure enough, she does! This real-life story has become an inspiration to people with special needs throughout the world.