***From The Mixed-Up Files of Basi-E-Frankweiler***

***Chapter 5***

***Synopsis:***

Jamie and Claudia had been gone from home for three days and were in need of clean clothes; it was decided that on this day, Saturday, they would go to the laundromat to wash clothes and then to the library to learn about Michelangelo. They then walked to the main branch of New York City library, where once there, they started looking for information about Michelangelo and were sent to the children's library. They didn't find what they were looking for there and were sent to a branch library.

At the second library, they found the sort of books they were looking for; Claudia assigned Jamie the task of looking for pictures of the angel statue while she did the reading. While Claudia had hoped to become an expert in everything Michelangelo, she was dismayed when she discovered that it couldn't be accomplished in one day; and in the late afternoon, they walked back to the museum laden down with clean clothes stuffed in all of their pockets and went to their stations in the appropriate bathrooms to wait for the museum to close.

But this time, the workers who normally left at 5 p.m. stayed on. For Jamie, the wait in the bathroom was interminable and, when he heard several sets of footsteps walk into the bathroom, almost bolted for the door in fear. He overheard two custodians talking about moving the angel statue. Jamie was concerned that Claudia wouldn't know that the museum still had people in it and thought very hard to convey a message to her through mental telepathy. Somehow, it worked because Claudia did not leave the bathroom and was not caught.

They met up in their "bedroom" and Claudia decided that they both needed a bath. The bath was taken in the fountain where the snack bar was located, and while they were bathing, Jamie found loose change on the bottom of the fountain and, together, they were able to collect another $2.87 to add to their treasury for meals.

Back again in their bedroom and now in their pajamas, Jamie and Claudia both knew that their best investigative work would be tomorrow morning when the museum was closed. As they lay in the darkness, they talked about homesickness, both deciding that they were very well-trained to manage so well on their own, which is why neither one of them felt particularly homesick.

Jamie and Claudia could have easily been caught this time when workers had stayed on to move the angel statue to the Great Hall for Sunday's exhibit, but fortunately, enough time had gone by living in the museum that both kids were using common sense, as well as their senses of hearing. Finding money in the fountain while taking a bath was a release of tension as Jamie's and Claudia's funds are starting to dwindle; at the same time, the mystery of the angel statue and her sculptor continues.

***Analysis In Detail:***

On their third day at the museum, the children wash their clothes at the laundromat, and then, on Claudia's insistence, they go to the New York Public Library to read about Michelangelo. Claudia begins her research confident that she can become an expert in one morning, but is quickly daunted by the vast amount of material on the artist. Jamie learns that many of Michelangelo's works were lost, but the children find no sign of Angel.

Finally, realizing that the experts probably know more than they do, the children depart. Jamie finds a candy bar on the sidewalk, and, despite Claudia's warnings that it is probably filled with dope, he eats it.

The children get a large lunch and return to the museum. They hide on the toilet seats as usual, and Jamie hears two workers come in long after the bell rings. The workers are discussing moving Angel, which is why they have stayed long after the close of the museum. Claudia and Jamie avoid detection again, and sort their laundry.

They also decide to take a bath, and do so at the fountain by the restaurant in the museum. They discover that many people have thrown coins into the fountain - the two children now have a source of income.

Afterward, the children visit Angel once again before heading to bed. They discuss their lack of homesickness before going to sleep.

***Summary:***

* Claudia is not only big on learning, she's also big on cleanliness. Why do you think they both thought to bring toothbrushes?
* On Saturday, after going to the automat, she drags them to the Laundromat to get their clothes washed. After all, runaways or not, they can't be seen in smelly clothes. That's horribly irresponsible.
* After being stuck in a musty museum for so long, Jamie wants to go to a department store and watch TV. Yay for new technology instead of centuries-old artifacts!
* Claudia puts her foot down, though. They are going to the library to research Michelangelo, and that's that.
* At the library, Claudia splits their duties; Claudia will read all the books on Michelangelo, while Jamie skims and tries to memorize the pictures. It's a pretty ambitious undertaking, but Claudia's self-confidence and determination are through the roof.
* After a hearty dose of research that would make any PhD candidate proud, they take a break and do real kid things: they go play in Central Park and buy food from a vendor outside the museum.
* Then it's time to re-enter the museum and go through their usual routine of hiding in the bathrooms for a set amount of time while they wait for the guards to leave.
* Jamie goes into the bathroom booth to hide, but when the guards come into the bathroom, they don't leave right away. Instead, he hears two voices talking about moving the statue.
* He's terrified that Claudia will get caught because she doesn't know that people are out and about in the museum at night to move the statue.
* So he tries to get through to her in the only way he knows how: telepathy. He tries to send Claudia some serious brain signals to stay put.
* Amazingly enough, when they finally meet at the bed, Claudia's safe and sound and hasn't been thrown out of the museum. She says that she didn't get his messages, but somehow she knew to wait longer than usual.
* Did we mention that Claudia's into cleanliness? Of course she'd be the kind of kid who insists that they figure out a way to take a bath, even when they're on the lam.
* In the museum's restaurant, there is a huge fountain that Claudia and Jamie get into in order to bathe.
* People don't just look at the fountain while they eat, though. They throw coins in too! Claudia and Jamie quickly realize that they've found an easy source of income—and end up collecting a whole $2.87 during their bath time. It may not be a huge fortune, but it sure beats waiting for their allowance.
* They can't resist going to the Great Hall for one more peek at the angel statue. But after that, it's time for bed. They're not savages, after all.
* In bed, Jamie asks a pretty good question. He wants to know if Claudia misses home at all. The truth is that neither of them really misses home. After all, who would trade adventure and freedom for school and chores like emptying out the wastebaskets? Not the Kinkaid duo, that's for sure.