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

***Chapter 6***

***Synopsis:***

The next morning was a Sunday and Jamie and Claudia awoke early. Claudia wondered aloud if they should go to church when they go out for breakfast and Jamie suggested that they go to the little chapel in the museum, the one with stained-glass, to say the Lord's Prayer.

The two children figured that they had plenty of time this morning to take a look at the angel statue and everything that surrounded her. But they were surprised when, only a few minutes after arriving at the statue, they heard footsteps behind them, so they hid until the guard making his rounds left. They then traveled up the stairs to the location where the angel statue had previously been, and approached the pedestal, covered in blue velvet, upon which the statue had sat. And, in the center of it, were three concentric circles with an "M" in the middle of one of them.

At first, Claudia thought that the janitors moving the statue may have placed their beer cans on this velvet but Jamie corrected her; he remembered seeing the symbol that appeared on the velvet in one of the books he'd read in the library the day before. Speculating that the "M" may stand for Michelangelo, Jamie and Claudia decided to hide again until the museum opened and then go to the bookstore to see if Jamie could find the book. Once in the bookstore, they searched for the book, and when Jamie found it , indeed, the symbol of the three concentric circles with an "M" inside one of them was Michelangelo's stone mason's mark.

Over lunch, they discussed how they would advise the museum of their discovery. Jamie wanted to just go to the head of the museum and tell him or her but Claudia decided that it would be a better idea to write a letter asking the Museum head to respond to them at a postal box in Grand Central Station. Once they had received their answer, Jamie and Claudia could reveal the fact that they had been living, undetected, inside the museum for the past week. Jamie was getting anxious to go home but Claudia wasn't ready yet; She wanted to definitively solve the mystery of the angel statue's sculptor.

A mini climax has been reached with the discovery of the stone mason's symbol together with learning that that symbol was Michelangelo's. While there doesn't seem to be as big a mystery looming anymore, there is still more find out about the statue, but tension is starting to heighten with Jamie's desire to go home and Claudia's desire to stay, even if only temporarily. The angel statue is a symbol of the artistry and purity of a time long gone by, and more than that, it is also Jamie and Claudia's salvation, for without its mystery, they would surely have been bored long ago.

***Analysis In Detail:***

It is now Sunday morning. Because the museum opens late this day, children go to the medieval art section and say some prayers.

Then they go to look at the statue of Angel again. Claudia wishes she could hug it, which Jamie teases her for. Suddenly, a guard appears, and the children have to hide quickly.

They find themselves by the pedestal that Angel had stood on the day before, and they notice a strange crumple in the fabric. A symbol has been impressed on the soft fabric: three overlapping circles with an ‘M’ in the center. Jamie recognizes this symbol from the books they read the day before. The children are determined to find the book again and figure out what it means. For Claudia, Angel is a symbol for her desire to be different, and a mystery that she feels she needs to solve before she can return home.

When the museum opens, the children go to the museum bookstore and find the strange symbol impressed onto the fabric - it is the artist's mark of Michelangelo, and it was on the bottom of the statue of Angel. This is strong proof that Michelangelo indeed carved the statue.

The children get brunch and ponder how they can pass on their discovery without revealing that they have been living in the museum. Claudia is determined that they will not go home until they have discovered the truth.

They decide to write an anonymous letter to the director of the museum. They use the typewriter in from of Olivetti's to do this - the typewriter there is intended for customers to get used to the feel of the machine so that they will buy one inside. They type a letter, and list their address as an anonymous P.O. Box. Then they tour the Ancient Greek art section before hiding in the bathrooms for close again.

The children know that it might be impossible for them to know more than the experts about the statue, but they reason that perhaps they can use their extended proximity to the statue to determine its secrets. Indeed, it is because they live with the statue that they make the exciting discovery of the mark imprinted on the fabric.

But what could this mark mean? Claudia and Jamie assume that no one else has noticed it because it is on the bottom of the statue. They believe that they are the only ones who know about this important piece of information. Logically, the symbol carved into the base of the statue - Michelangelo's artist's mark - is no guarantee that the statue was carved by the sculptor himself. This widely known symbol may have been carved into the base by an imposter attempting to create a believable fake.

As they bathe in the fountain, the children make another exciting discovery - the fountain has been used as a wishing well! They happily scoop up the coins from the bottom. Jamie comments, “Someone very rich must have tossed in this quarter,” to which Claudia replies “Someone very poor. Rich people have only penny wishes” (pg. 84). Claudia reasons that only poor people could face such troubles that they would be willing to sacrifice a whole quarter to solve them. Rich people are shielded from such difficulties, so they would only throw in a penny for a wish. This quotation is a great example of the maturity and precociousness exhibited by the two Kincaid children, who are often more intelligent and observant than one would guess from their age.

The children also bond about their peculiar lack of homesickness. Jamie suggests that homesickness, like thumb-sucking, is what happens when you're not very sure of yourself. This simile implies that thumb-sucking, like homesickness, is only for young children. It also suggests that Claudia and Jamie are unusually sure of themselves.

***Summary:***

* Claudia even takes Sunday into consideration; after all, running away isn't an excuse to skip anything, not even church. They wake up early and go to a little chapel in the Middle Ages section of the museum to say their prayers.
* After another peek at the angel (they just can't stay away), the museum guards come through, so Claudia and Jamie do what they do best—hide. They duck into the booth where the museum rents out the walkie-talkies for tours.
* They check out the scene where the angel statue used to sit on a glorious stretch of velvet. Fancy shmancy.
* Something's going on with the velvet: there are some rings on it. Was someone drinking beer? A soda, maybe? They look closer and realize that the rings are crushed in the shape of a symbol… that seems to have an "M" in it.
* Cue the game show music signaling that they've found a clue.
* Jamie realizes that he saw the same symbol yesterday while they were at the library, though he can't remember what book it was from (or what it means).
* Claudia, feeling even better about this whole adventure, thinks that this statue (which she affectionately calls Angel… original, we know) is definitely the answer to the [ennui](http://www.wordcentral.com/cgi-bin/student?ennui) that caused her to run away.
* Without further ado, they set out to find what the symbol means. When the museum opens, they zip on over to the museum bookstore and find a book with the info they need—that the symbol they saw was Michelangelo's stonemason's mark. Bingo!
* They splurge on a bus to go get brunch as they discuss what to do with their findings. How will they let the museum officials know this juicy information that they've excavated?
* Claudia decides that the only thing to do is to write an anonymous letter to the museum officials. Then, when they are met with amazement and wonder, they will reveal themselves and be crowned as heroes of the art world.
* Sounds like a plan.
* With their quick memory, they remember a store that has a typewriter that you can use for free to test the product. They go there and type up as grown-up a letter as they can, explaining the stonemason's mark.
* Then, they decide that they will spend some money on a P.O. Box so that they have a place where the museum officials can reach them.