



museum**kids**

**THE**  
**“MIXED-UP FILES”**  
**ISSUE**

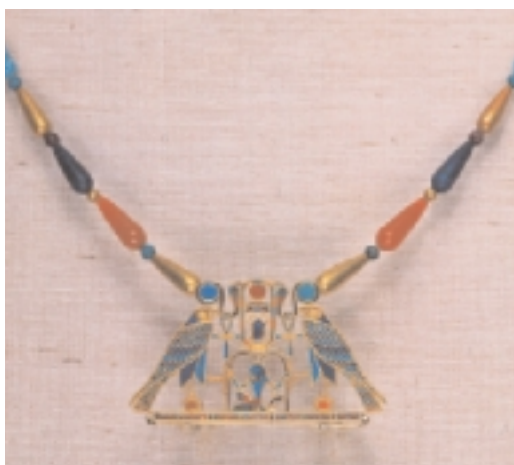
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

# A “MIXED-UP” JOURNEY

Here at the Museum, we get questions about all sorts of things. Some of the most frequently asked questions are about the book *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, by E. L. Konigsburg. In fact, we get so many questions about this book that we decided to devote a whole issue of *Museum Kids* to it. The book is about a sister and brother named Claudia and Jamie Kincaid, who run away and camp out in The Metropolitan Museum of Art. You can't, of course, camp out here, but you can have an adventure each time you visit (and at least rest your feet if you get tired).

We took the kids you see in some of these pictures on a journey through the Museum to find out what they liked and what they thought you would like. We came up with objects that are similar to ones that the Kincaids encountered on their trip, but we hope that you'll also enjoy them because they're wonderful works of art.

And if you haven't read the book, don't worry. You can still have a great time when you visit the Museum, no matter when you come or what you see.



See jewelry fit for a princess in the Egyptian galleries.

*Pectoral with the Name of Senwosret II*  
Egyptian, Dynasty 12, reign of Senwosret II, ca. 1897–1878 B.C.  
Gold, amethyst, turquoise, feldspar, carnelian, lapis lazuli, and garnet  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rogers Fund and Henry Walters Gift, 1916 (16.1.3)

Claudia and Jamie spent much of their time in the Egyptian galleries—and so do many of our visitors. These galleries are among the most popular in the whole Museum, especially with kids. When Claudia was in the galleries, she admired some beautiful jewelry that was owned by a princess. The **jewelry of Princess Sit Hathor Yunet** can be found in gallery 8 of the Egyptian galleries. Look at the jewelry in the long glass case. The pectoral, or chest plate, in the middle was worn on a necklace of beads, around the princess's neck, and the amethyst and gold girdle would have been worn like a belt, around her hips. (Neat trick: If you stand in front of the wig, you can see your reflection in the glass, so it almost looks like you're wearing the wig!)

While you're still in the Egyptian galleries, find something else that caught Claudia's fancy. She especially liked a beautiful bronze **sculpture of a cat**, which can be found in the left-hand corridor as you walk back from the Tomb of Perneb at the entrance to the galleries.

Can you guess what this statue was used for? It's actually a coffin and would have held a mummified cat. Cats were the sacred animals of Bastet, goddess of the household, and cat mummies were donated to temples dedicated to the goddess and buried nearby.

Now let's move on to the Charles Engelhard Court in the American Wing. (It's easy to get to from the Egyptian galleries—walk through the Temple of Dendur, down the corridor with all the clocks, and right into the courtyard.) If you've read the book, do you remember where Claudia and Jamie bathed and collected coins? Although the Fountain of the Muses is no longer on display, you can see many other beautiful fountains and pools throughout the Museum. A very pretty fountain can be seen in the Engelhard Court. If you need a rest, this is a good place to sit down and take a break before you continue on your journey.



This fancy and beautiful bed was made for the friend of a king.

*State Bed*  
English, ca. 1698  
Oak, silk damask  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art,  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William  
Randolph Hearst Jr., 1968  
(68.217.1)