

## Family Book Discussion - Museums

Enjoy a family book club right from the comfort of your own home. Download the book and listen to it or read it together. We'll provide activities and additional reading to encourage your discussion. Happy reading!

Read:

Download [From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg](#)

Questions to help your discussion:

Take a virtual trip to an art museum. Visit the collections of some of the most famous museums in the world. You can also look at art books, such as books on Renaissance painting and sculpture, Impressionism, or the paintings of Goya. Let yourself wander and browse just like you would through the galleries of a real museum.

How do you look at art?

1. Researcher—You look at every picture in a room, book, or website and read all the information about the artist. Details interest you.
2. Hit-and-run champ—You look for a moment at this painting, then go across the room (or to the next page or book) to check out another, then down the hall (or onto another website) to an earlier period, and then back to where you started.
3. Dreamer-You stare at one painting for hours, wondering about it.

You may want to try all three ways of looking at art until you find one, or a combination, that feels natural. Remember that no one way is right. Share your style. Why do you think you look at art that way? What character do you relate to?

(Taken from: *From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler : book guide /* by E. L. Konigsburg; book guide by Linda Ward Beech.)

Things to do:

- Visit [dia.org](http://dia.org) and “browse” through your favorite gallery. Try a gallery you haven’t looked through yet.
- Choose a piece of art from the museum. Make your own version using new materials, or different subjects, or make original work inspired by your selected piece.
- Create your own art museum at home. Hang up your child’s work and tour the gallery together. Ask your child to act as docent and talk to you about their art. Ask: Who made this. What year? What materials did they use? (paper, cardboard, crayons, paint, etc). Why did they choose to create this piece?

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- Check out the [DIA at home projects](#).
- Take the museum challenge! Recreate a famous painting from the DIA using only yourselves and household items. Take a picture and share!

Other museum books to enjoy:

- [The Museum](#) by Susan Verde
- [Museum trip](#) by Barbara Lehman
- [Diego Rivera: His World and Ours](#) by Duncan Tonatiuh
- [Ana and Andrew a Day at the Museum](#) by Christine Platt
- [Museums](#) by Jennifer Gillis
- [I \(Heart\) Art](#) by The Metropolitan Museum of Art