The Mystery of the Bad Luck Curse by Laura E. Williams

Chapter 1 “Threats”

1. According to legend, what happened to the settlers who lived at the archaeological site in the summer of 1698? What does the legend say will happen if “anyone starts digging around” (pg. 2)?
2. Do all of the people in Mystic, Maine support the archaeological dig? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Chapter 2: “The Knife”

3. Who is Mrs. Casely, and how do Zeke and Jen meet her?
4. Why do Professor Murphy and Frank get into a fight?

Chapter 3: “Watch Out!”

5. What do Zeke and Jen see in the woods after they hear Lori scream?
6. What does Jen think Professor Murphy found and locked away in the trailer?

Chapter 4: “The Legend of the Bad Luck Curse”

7. Who is Jeremiah Blake? Why does Jen think “He’s got something against us” (pg. 27)?
8. What are the two sides to the argument about the archaeological dig? Give one argument in favor of the dig and one argument against the dig.

Chapter 5: “Whispered Secrets”

9. When Zeke and Jen overhear Professor Murphy and Frank in the trailer, what does Professor Murphy accuse Frank of doing?
10. Based on the whispers Zeke and Jen hear coming from the trailer, do you
think someone dressed up as the ghost? Explain your answer.

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankwiler by E. L. Konigsburg

Chapter 1
1. Why does Claudia want to run away? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
2. How does Jamie get his money?

Chapter 2
3. Based on the first two chapters, why does Claudia choose to run away with Jamie?
4. Who is the narrator of this book? Who is the narrator telling the story to? Explain how you know.

Chapter 3
5. Why does Jamie want to walk forty blocks to the museum?
6. What is Claudia’s plan to keep from getting caught in the museum after it closes?
7. “He said, ‘You know, Claude, for a sister and a fussbudget, you’re not too bad.’ Claudia replied, ‘You know, Jamie, for a brother and a cheapskate, you’re not too bad’” (pg. 38). What does the narrator say happened between the siblings at this moment?

Chapter 4
8. Why does Claudia become nervous when she sees a photographer from the New York Times at the museum?
9. Why does the Angel statue bring record-breaking crowds to the museum?
10. How did the museum get the Angel statue?

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

Chapter 2: “The Letter is Dead”

1. What does Calder carry around in his pockets?
2. How are both Calder and Petra connected to Powell’s Used Book Store?
3. Why does Petra get upset when Calder sees her spying on Ms. Hussey in the book store?

Chapter 3: “Lost in the Art”

4. In the first few chapters of the book, what is the relationship between Calder and Petra like?

Chapter 4: “Picasso’s Lie”

5. According to Picasso, what is art?
6. Who is Charles Fort?

Chapter 5: “Worms, Snakes, and Periwinkles”

7. What kind of book is Lo!?

Chapter 6: “The Geographer’s Box”

8. Who is “Frog,” and what happened to him?

Chapter 7: “The Man on the Wall”

9. What is the picture on Caldor’s box, and who painted the original copy of
the picture?

Chapter 8: “A Halloween Surprise”
10. Why did Petra’s stomach give a “sickening lurch” when she looked at the picture, “A Lady Writing”?

The Search for Belle Prater by Ruth White
Chapter 1
1. What is a cauldron, and what does it mean to be born with one?

Chapter 2
2. According to Grandpa, what is a New Year’s Revelation?
3. What is Woodrow’s New Year’s Revelation?

Chapter 3
4. Why do Woodrow and Gypsy want to travel to Bluefield?
5. How do Woodrow and Gypsy convince their family to let them travel to Bluefield by themselves?

Chapter 5
6. What does “fey” mean? Why does Cassie describe Woodrow’s story about the snow in this way?

Chapter 6
7. How does Woodrow get the “Lucky young’uns” to stop annoying them on the bus?
Chapter 7

8. Why does Cassie stop Woodrow from going into the first bathroom at the stop in Deep Vale?

9. Does Joseph, the boy sitting in the back of the bus, like it when Woodrow calls him “colored”? How do you know?