

A Simply Magnificent Classroom Guide

to the



FRANNIE

series

By AJ STERN

"It is a
scientific fact that
I try to be grown-up
as oftenly as
possible."



Curriculum Connections,
Discussion Questions,
& Classroom Activities



Mrs. Frankly B. Miller
Radio Show Host
914-555-1819
MrsFranklyB@Millers.com

Dear Simply Magnificent Teacher,

My name is Frannie B. Miller and I would like to take a machillionth of a centimeter of your time to share some very important and interesting news. (I am very smart about what's important and interesting.)

Here is the news: There's a new chapter book series, called Frankly, Frannie, which is all about me! (And that is not me bragging, that is just a scientific fact.)

Here are some things you will find out when you read Frankly, Frannie:

1. I love, love, love, offices.
2. I love, love, love, love, office supplies.
3. That is why I want to find a job.
4. But not at *Cambridge* magazine or at the Chester Radio Station. My curious hands got me into a whole wide world of trouble at those offices. My parents told me I should think about other jobs.

Here are some things you will find out when you look through this classroom guide:

1. My series is great for discussing things. Mostly because of all the things that happen to me when I try to help out.
2. You can use the books about me to help explain research projects, where scientific facts are very important.
3. Creative writing is also something I can help with. To be a good creative writer you have to be very good at using your imagination (which, I am).
4. You don't have to be a grown-up to have a real, official resume. They are actually very good tools to outline responsibilities for people my very own age.

I know you will love Frankly, Frannie. Especially if you like to read books that make you laugh. (My mother says I'm funny and that I should be a comedian. But I don't want to be a comedian. Comedians don't have offices.)

Sincerely,

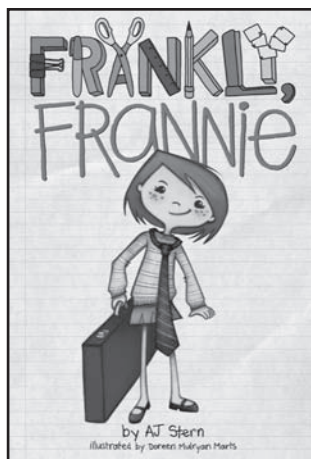
Mrs. Frannie B. Miller

(The B. stands for Bird, but please don't tell anyone.)

PS: Another important and interesting fact about the Frankly Frannie books is that the first four books in the series are all guided reading level M (which means they are especially good for second and third-graders to read.)

FRANKLY, FRANNIE

Discussion Questions



FRANKLY, FRANNIE

Can someone *please* get this girl a job? She already has her resume, business cards, and mustard packets (which are so much more grown-up than ketchup). So why is it taking her eleventeen hundred years?

Frannie's class is visiting the local radio station and the radio host is nowhere to be found. Should Frannie cover for him? After all, this could be her big break! But what happens when listeners call in with questions and Frannie doesn't know the answers?

Questions for Discussion

1. Frannie often exaggerates. What are some of the ways that you know she's not telling the exact truth? Why do you think she exaggerates? Have you ever exaggerated? What are examples of when you or someone you know has exaggerated?
2. When Frannie's class visits the radio station, she breaks the rules and gets on the radio without permission. If you were in the same position as Frannie, what would you have done?
3. When someone calls in to the radio and asks about where to vote for mayor, Frannie sends them to the wrong voting location. What might be the consequences of Frannie sending people to the wrong location to vote?

Activities

1. Pretend that you have a chance to be on the radio as the host of an advice show for kids. What kind of advice would you give? Make a list of questions that kids might ask and then in partners, record your answers on a tape recorder or take turns asking questions and giving advice.
2. Frannie has a lot of big plans. She wants a real job, and she wants a secretary. What kinds of jobs would you like to have? Use the sheets in the back of this guide to create your own business cards and resume.
3. Frannie wants Elliott to be her buddy for the field trip to the radio station but instead she gets Millicent. She describes her disappointment by saying "all my hopes poured through my body and dripped onto the floor in a big disappointment puddle." Think about your life and make a list of the times when you had a big disappointment puddle. How did things get better? Write a short story about one of these times and share it with the class.
4. A mayor is the person who runs the city government. Who is the mayor of your town or city? What do they do? Using local newspapers and the internet find at least ten facts about the mayor and what he or she does.



FRANKLY, FRANNIE Doggy Day Care

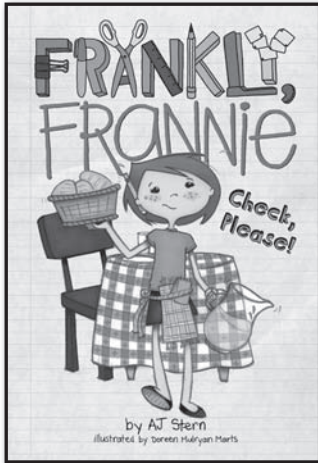
One dog. One Frannie. One GIANT mess. When Frannie notices her aunt's dog limping, she sees it as her big break to be a vet, so it's off to the veterinarian's office, where she can showcase her doggy-diagnostic skills. But in true Frannie form, all she can pull off is a doggy disaster . . .

Questions for Discussion

1. Frannie has a mind of her own. In fact, her parents have said that she is very original, one of a kind. What does that mean? In what ways is Frannie a one of a kind?
2. What leads Frannie to decide to be a veterinarian who specializes in dogs?
3. Frannie's Aunt Magoo's dog is named Bark. Why do you think that is a good or bad name for her dog? What are other good names for animals that relate to their behaviors?
4. When Frannie's Aunt Magoo trips over her dog, she ends up on crutches and needs some extra help around the house. Frannie, her family, and Frannie's friend, Elliott, go to visit Magoo. How do Frannie's best intentions lead her to trouble?
5. While Frannie tries to be helpful, she seems to get into trouble instead. How might she use her decision making skills to be more helpful than trouble-making?

Activities

1. If you wanted to be a veterinarian for dogs, you would need to know a lot about dogs. Research the various breeds of dogs and make a chart to compare and contrast the dogs in terms of their size (height and weight), where they are from, and the kinds of activities they like (sitting on laps, running outside, playing fetch etc.) Create a brochure or guide to different types of dogs.
2. A storyboard is what a book creator or moviemaker uses to show the sequence of events in a story. A storyboard may also look similar to a comic strip. Draw a storyboard of Frannie and Elliott taking Bark to the veterinarian and what happens in the veterinarian's waiting room when Frannie and Elliott bring Bark there in a wheelchair. You may want to present it as a sequence of storyboards.
3. Frannie loves to think about the world in terms of scientific facts. She uses this phrase to make herself sound believable. A scientific fact is something that is true or objective, in other words, you can't question it. Frannie wants to be a veterinarian, specifically a dog veterinarian. Choose a breed of dog and research that breed, making a list of the scientific facts about that dog. Be sure to include facts like the origin of the dog breed, the size of the dog, what the dog eats, what the dog is known for (for example: herding, hunting, etc.), and any other extremely important scientific facts of your choice about your selected dog breed.



FRANKLY, FRANNIE Check, Please!

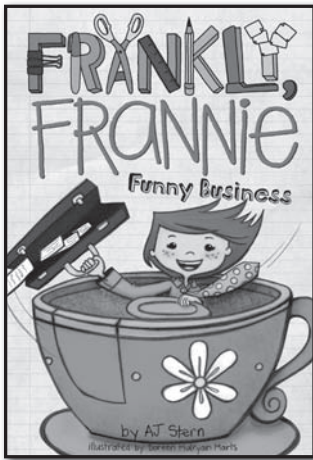
Frannie and her family are off to Balloo for dinner. It's the new French restaurant in town, and Frannie couldn't be more excited about it. The timing is perfect now that she's decided to become a food critic—someone who gets paid to eat at restaurants and write about food. But when she gets to Balloo, eating is the last thing on her mind. All she can do is wonder: If the restaurant is as fancy as it's supposed to be, then why in the world are they serving snails?

Questions for Discussion

1. When Frannie finds out that Balloo serves snails to eat, she's revolted! But people in different countries eat lots of different things, and have many different traditions. Can you think of any foods or traditions from around the world that might seem different to us? Why do you think these different traditions got started?
2. Frannie tries very hard to be helpful, but sometimes she makes big mistakes—like when she told the lady at the restaurant that Balloo was serving bugs. Have you ever made a mistake by assuming something and not asking questions? What would you tell Frannie to do in order to not make mistakes like that?
3. Frannie knows that her actions have consequences. Take a look at some of the decisions Frannie makes: picking up the hot spaghetti plate, writing a note to the not-Maria Cross, apologizing to Maria Cross and Balloo. What are the consequences of these actions? What choices ended in good consequences? Which ones ended in bad ones?

Activities

1. Frannie and her parents win a gift certificate to a brand new restaurant called Balloo. Make up your own restaurant. What kinds of food would you serve? What would the restaurant look like? Make a menu for your restaurant, and don't forget to give everything a price! Then, ask a classmate what they would order. How much would their meal cost?
2. Frannie meets a food critic after her Balloo disaster. Maria Cross describes the food and the service at a restaurant using lots of descriptive words. You can be a critic, too! Write a review of *Frankly, Frannie: Check, Please!* describing what happened and what some of your favorite parts were. At the end, choose whether or not you would recommend this book to other readers.
3. Frannie and Elliot start off at the Spaghetti Lunch at their School Fair. Plan a fair for your own school! Pick a theme, plan games, and make a schedule of events. Then, make a poster for your fair and present it to your class.



FRANKLY, FRANNIE Funny Business

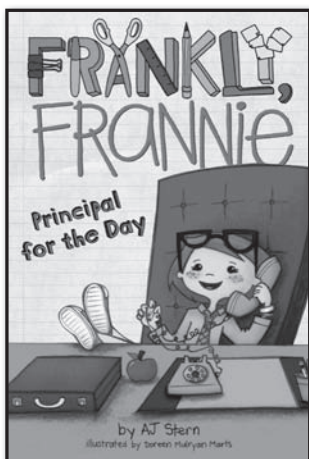
The Millers are off to Orlando, the fun capital of the world. Dad has a business conference, and Mom plans on taking Frannie to the theme parks and beaches. Of course, Frannie is much happier to be where the action is: inside the hotel, guarding the keynote speaker's presentation materials with her life. All goes well until Frannie's curious hands mess up the materials, which infuriates the speaker lady to no end. That is, until she realizes that Frannie could very well save the day. After all, the speech was supposed to be about using one's imagination, and who better to address that topic than the world's foremost expert herself?

Questions for Discussion

1. When Frannie doesn't pay close attention to Mrs. Zucker's box, she ends up losing it. Her dad reminds her about her own responsibilities. What are some of your responsibilities at home and at school? Why is it important to be responsible for your own actions?
2. Frannie accidentally embarrasses herself and Mrs. Zucker when she calls Mrs. Zucker's speech boring over the live microphone! Have you ever been very embarrassed? What could Frannie have done differently, to avoid being embarrassed and hurting Mrs. Zucker's feelings?
3. In this book, Frannie encounters a lot of different kinds of jobs: pilot, hotel worker, guest speaker. Which one sounds the most interesting to you? Why?
4. While in Florida, Frannie's mom is really excited about going to Princessland. But Frannie thinks that the conference might be more fun! She doesn't say anything to her mom, though. Why not? Which would you rather spend the day at: an amusement park or a work conference? What would be the best and worst things about going to each?

Activities

1. Frannie likes to use lots of made up words that sound very, very important. Using context clues, can you figure out the definitions of some of Frannie's favorite words? Make your own dictionary of Frannie phrases, using your definitions. Remember to include synonyms—other words that mean the same thing!
2. Mrs. Zucker is going to give a speech on imagination. Why is it important to be creative? How can you use your imagination to do well in school and to make the world a better place? Write your own speech and then read it to your class!
3. As part of her dad's business trip, Frannie gets to take a vacation! Think of your own dream vacation, and then, using a book or the internet, research where you want to go. How would you get there, and what would you do while you were there? Then, make a brochure for your dream vacation spot.
4. Frannie and her mom are really excited to go to Princessland. Design your own theme park! What would it be called? What sorts of rides would it have? Make a poster advertising your park, and then present it to your class.



FRANKLY, FRANNIE Principal for a Day

Frannie has been named principal for the day and she couldn't be more excited! To spend the whole day in an office – with a desk, a copier, and a swivel chair no less – is beyond her wildest dreams! Pretty soon all these office supplies are making her a little punchy, and before she knows it, she's accidentally setting off the fire alarm, which is no small offense. But as principal of her own school, does she get to come up with her own punishment?

Questions for Discussion

1. As principal, Frannie has a lot of tasks to do, like making announcements and checking the attendance sheets. What other sorts of tasks do you think a principal does at school? Is there anything special that the principal at your school gets to do that you wish you could do, too?
2. In this book, Frannie gets to be principal of her school for a day, and she has lots of ideas. If you were principal of your school, even for just a day, what sorts of things would you do to make your school a better place?
3. Frannie does something very, very bad when she pulls the fire alarm at school. Why is this something that you shouldn't ever do, unless there's an emergency? What are some other things that you shouldn't ever do, except in case of an emergency? Why is it especially important to follow these rules?
4. Unfortunately for Frannie, she doesn't quite make it to the end of the day before she gets three strikes and isn't allowed to be principal anymore. What are some helpful hints you can give to Frannie about following rules and keeping her curious hands to herself?

Activities

1. Have you ever wondered what it's like to be principal? Write down a bunch of questions you have about being a principal, and then interview your school's very own principal. Then, turn your interview into an article, for a magazine or a newspaper.
2. Frannie had to write a composition that explained why she would like to be principal for the day. Write your own composition about why you would make a good principal, or gym teacher, or cafeteria worker, or any other role in your school, and present it to your class.
3. When Frannie pulls the fire alarm at school, it makes some of the students very scared. Research fire safety tips, and prepare a presentation for your class to educate them on important safety issues, like how to prevent fires, and what to do in case of one.

MAKE YOUR OWN VERY OFFICIAL BUSINESS CARDS

Frannie says:

"Business cards are for leaving your phone number and e-mail address with other business people. If you have a card then nobody has to go looking for a pen and paper."

Create your own business cards—just like Frannie (and other very grown-up people)! Use a fancy marker, or a very serious pen that does not have an eraser. Write your name, address, phone number, and a job title on each card below. In *Frankly, Frannie*, Frannie writes the job title of Radio Show Host on her business cards because she wants to work at the radio station she's visiting with her class. What kinds of jobs would you like to have when you grow up? Choose a different job for each of the business cards you fill out below.



WRITE YOUR VERY OWN ACTUAL GROWN-UP RESUME

Frannie says:

"If I brought my resume with me to the radio station visit then certainly I could get a job."

Frannie's dad explains to her that a resume is "a list of all the jobs and schools a person has worked at and attended." What jobs do you have at home and at school? Do you answer the phone and take messages for your family members at home? Are you the Door Opener or Line Leader at school? Use the form below to create your own resume. Write your name, address, and phone number on the lines at the top. Write your jobs under "Work Experience" and your school's name and your grade under "Education." Include your special talents under "Skills" and friends or family members who could say nice, positive things about you under "References."

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Work Experience

- _____
- _____
- _____

Education

- _____

Skills

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

References

- _____
- _____

Frankly Frannie BINGO

Frannie uses lots of words, real and made-up. For this BINGO Game, your goal is to use the word that is called out by your teacher in a sentence. If you use the word correctly, you get to mark the word. To win you have to mark one full row, column, or diagonal of Frannie words.

TEACHERS: Copy this sheet, cut the word boxes out and turn them face down on a table. Mix them up and call them out as you turn them over.

B I N G O

Ordinary	Beaming	Resume	Machillion <small>Used on Frankly, Frannie, page 86</small>	Professional
Workerish <small>Used on Frankly, Frannie, page 67</small>	Scientific Fact	However	Advice	Politics
Strictest	Forevertteen <small>Used on Frankly, Frannie, page 93</small>	Frankly, this space is free!	Unfortunately	Gigantic
Limpish	Squinched <small>Used on Frankly, Frannie, page 78</small>	Secretary	Stumpified <small>Used on Frankly, Frannie, page 67</small>	Marvelous
Annoyed	Punishment	Frances-ed <small>Used on Frankly, Frannie, page 91</small>	Scowls	Pride-itivity <small>Used on Frankly, Frannie, page 72</small>



A Simply Magnificent Acrostic!

An acrostic is a poem in which the first letter of the alphabet spells out a word, idea, or message. After reading at least one *Frankly, Frannie* book, create an acrostic that describes Frannie. Before you begin writing, you may want to brainstorm adjectives or phrases that describe Frannie. You can do this on your own, with a partner or group, or as a class. After you finish Frannie's acrostic, make an acrostic of your own name to compare and contrast yourself to Frannie.

F _____

R _____

A _____

N _____

N _____

I _____

E _____



Writing Very Official Letters

At the end of *Frankly, Frannie*, Frannie and her class write a letter to Mr. Sanders to tell him something very important: that they are sorry for what happened at the radio station. Writing a letter is an excellent way of telling someone something in an official and grown-up way. Use the space below to write a letter to someone you know. Be sure to tell them something important!

Dear _____ ,

Sincerely,

Make-Your-Own Sock Doll!

*Just like
Aunt Magoo!*

Frannie's Aunt Magoo makes sock dolls. Magoo teaches Elliott to make a sock doll.
Design your own sock doll. Draw a picture of it in the space below.
If you want you could even make your own!

Materials

Old socks
Needle
Thread
Yarn
Buttons
Embroidery thread
Polyester stuffing

You might want to make a pattern for cutting out the head, body, arms, and legs. You could make this out of old newspaper. There are a few websites with directions for making sock dolls. One that might be fun to visit is:
www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Sock-Doll.

My Very Own
MAGNIFICENT Sock Doll 

A Very Professional-Like Interview!

In *Frankly, Frannie: Principal for the Day*, Frannie gets to be principal because she writes an essay about what a great principal she would make. When people are looking for jobs, usually they have to go on an interview. In the space below, answer the interview questions as if you were looking for a job. Then, come up with a question that you think would be a good one to ask if you were interviewing someone!

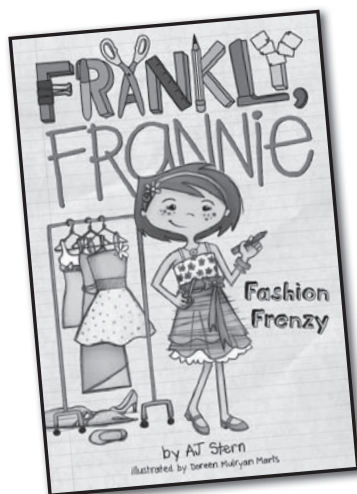
What are some of your talents and skills?

How do you solve problems at home or at school?

Write your question here!

A Special Sneak Peek

at what Frannie will be up to next!



AVAILABLE FALL 2011!

Fashion Frenzy

Frannie's school is putting on a mother-daughter fashion show and she and her mother get to walk the runway! Mrs. Miller can't wait—but Frannie isn't as excited. Frannie feels that the catwalk is no replacement for a real office, and that being a designer for the show would be much more workerish. Pretty soon Frannie finds herself cutting all sorts of things—long dresses and hair to name a few—and is quickly taken out of the fashion show altogether. She is pretty disappointed at first, but when a real designer lets Frannie help run the outfits to the models, she learns that helping people can be just as rewarding as getting the job done on her own.

AVAILABLE SPRING 2012!

Miss Fortune

In the seventh Frankly, Frannie book, Frannie's parents throw a party for Frannie with a fortune teller and Frannie finds her next new job. Fortune teller, of course! Frannie begins making up the fortunes of her friends at school and realizes that there is a difference between seeing the future and simply telling people what to do. After getting into trouble, Frannie realizes that if she really were a psychic, she would have known she was going to get into trouble!



IT'S A SCIENTIFIC FACT THAT **FRANKLY, FRANNIE**

by AJ Stern illustrated by Doreen Mulryan Maris

Ages 6-8
Grades 1-3
Guided Reading
Level M

IS A SIMPLY MAGNIFICENT SERIES FOR CLASSROOMS!



Meet Frannie B. Miller:

While other girls her age dream of getting a doll for Christmas, Frannie dreams of getting a paper shredder. Other girls would die for a canopy bed, but Frannie would prefer an ergonomic chair. And what girl doesn't fantasize about some day getting a new baby sister? Well, Frannie would actually much prefer a personal assistant, thank you very much.



Frankly, Frannie

978-0-448-45348-4 (PB) • \$4.99
978-0-448-45349-1 (HC) • \$12.99



Doggy Day Care

978-0-448-45350-7 (PB) • \$4.99
978-0-448-45351-4 (HC) • \$12.99



Check, Please!

978-0-448-45352-1 (PB) • \$4.99
978-0-448-45353-8 (HC) • \$12.99



Funny Business

978-0-448-45540-2 (PB) • \$4.99
978-0-448-45541-9 (HC) • \$12.99



Principal for the Day

978-0-448-45542-6 (PB) • \$4.99
978-0-448-45543-3 (HC) • \$12.99
Available Summer 2011!



Fashion Frenzy

978-0-448-45544-0 (PB) • \$4.99
978-0-448-45545-7 (HC) • \$12.99
Available Fall 2011!

Teachers absolutely LOVE Frannie!

"Precious and precocious . . . Frannie is a breath of fresh air. This book will make you laugh out loud!"

—Connie R. Mathes, Coordinator, Middle Childhood Program • Department of Teacher Education, University of Dayton

"Lucy Rose and Clementine have found a kindred spirit." —Betty Carter, educational consultant

"Frankly, Frannie will leave readers ready to embrace this loveable character and her well meaning antics. Readers will soon discover this scientific fact—this spunky heroine is frankly fabulous!"

—Rose Brock, Librarian, Coppell Independent School District, • 2009 John Newbery Committee Member

"Simply wonderful . . . Ivy and Bean step aside for my new favorite character with her outrageous antics and intriguing escapades."

—Judith K. Eggemeier, Department of Teacher Education, University of Dayton