***Freaky Fast Frankie Joe***

By Lutricia Clifton

Grades 3-5

**Annotation**

* Frankie Joe's mother is sent to jail. His life is turned upside-down when he must leave his home in Texas to live with his father - and his father’s family -  in Illinois. Frankie Joe decides to ride his bike back home to Texas, but he needs money. So Frankie Joe starts a delivery service. His business is a success but his escape is not. Through his heartbreak Frankie Joe realizes things aren’t always as they initially seem.

**Book Talk**

* From Publisher: Twelve-year-old Frankie Joe Huckaby can’t find anything good to say about Plainview, Illinois, where he must spend the next ten months living with a father he knows only through birthday cards, a stepmother he didn’t know existed, and four half-brothers intent on making him the “freak” of the town. His mother is in jail, so he has no choice…or does he? When life in Plainview becomes unbearable, Frankie Joe hatches a plan to ride his old Rover Sport bicycle 1,400 miles through the middle of the Corn Belt back to the Lone Star Trailer Park in Laredo, Texas. For that he needs money, and so he opens Frankie Joe’s Freaky Fast Delivery Service. But Frankie Joe hasn’t counted on quirky clients, unpredictable winter weather, and his equally unpredictable new family.

His deliveries win new friends for Frankie Joe, a place in the rural Illinois community, and a sense of achievement. But his planned escape is destroyed by a heartbreaking betrayal, and Frankie Joe needs all his incredible resilience and the loving support of his new family to survive the devastating loss.

**Book Trailers**

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_ojkf3rlMQ>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ3JnOvjx8k>

### Author on the Internet

* Author’s Website: <http://www.lutricia-lois-clifton.com>
* Author’s Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/lutricia.clifton>
* Author’s Twitter Handle: <https://twitter.com/LutriciaClifton>

### Realia/Display Items

* Bike, bike helmet, books (especially classics - *Kidnapped*, *Treasure Island)*, note cards, quilts, map

### Food

* Birthday cake, punch, McDonald’s, corn and soybeans, pizza all through the book, Oktoberfest foods, New Year’s Eve food

**Book Charm**

* Bike - <http://www.fitnessfinders.net/>

### 

### 

### Background Knowledge

* Alberta Clipper— A fast moving low pressure system that moves southeast out of Canadian Province of Alberta (southwest Canada) through the Plains, Midwest, and Great Lakes region usually during the winter. This low pressure area is usually accompanied by light snow, strong winds, and colder temperatures. Another variation of the same system is called a "Saskatchewan Screamer". <http://forecast.weather.gov/glossary.php?word=Alberta%20clipper>
* Oktoberfest— [http://source.southuniversity.edu/oktoberfest-celebrations-around-the-world- 55502.aspx](http://source.southuniversity.edu/oktoberfest-celebrations-around-the-world-%2055502.aspx). Presents a short history of this festival, which is now celebrated in many places.
* Meteorite Museum Virtual Tour, University of New Mexico Institute of Meteoritics <http://epswww.unm.edu/meteoritemuseum/virtual-tour.htm>

**Book Club/Discussion Questions**

* Anticipation Guide for Freaky Fast Frankie Joe: <http://tinyurl.com/kgev86n>
* Class discussion cards: <http://tinyurl.com/o429z9k>
* Map to plot where Freaky Fast Frankie Joe travels <http://tinyurl.com/o8xccvv>

**Non-Fiction Companion Title**

* Fun math problems for delivery problems: <http://tinyurl.com/ls6socv>

**What to Read Next**

* Frankie's friend, Mrs. Jones gave him a copy of his favorite book "Kidnapped". At times, Frankie Joe feels like he has been kidnapped by his dad and his new family. *Kidnapped* and *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson are two of Frankie Joe's favorite books. You can read the free E-Books here:
  + Free E-book [Kidnapped](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/421) by Robert Louis Stevenson
  + **Free E-Book** [Treasure Island](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/120/120-h/120-h.htm) by Robert Louis Stevenson
* [Summer of the Gypsy Moths](http://www.sarapennypacker.com/pennypacker-gypsymoths.htm) by Sara Pennypacker
* [One for the Murphys](http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/book_murphys.php) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt