



Franky by Leo Timmers

Publisher: Gecko Press

RRP \$19.99 softcover
RRP \$29.99 hardcover

The bright, distinctive art of Leo Timmers makes *Franky* a joyous picture book. His characters are quirky, full of fun, and energetic.

Young Sam is crazy about robots and is convinced they live on a faraway planet. No one in his family believes him, not even his dog, so Sam decides to build someone who will understand him.

Franky, the robot, is a compilation of household items such as an old-fashioned radio, a vacuum cleaner, workshop tools, a garden rake, and other bits and pieces. The robot becomes Sam's close companion and they play together every day. Franky is like a brother to Sam and they have a marvellous time.

One day Franky is silent. He stands by the window and gazes out at the sky. Later, the stars come out, and then ...

The illustrations are a wonderful mix of movement, creativity, and visual humour. Colourful speech bubbles add to the many design features of this attractive book. Franky converses in a code that Sam seems to understand. Although a mechanical creature, the robot has recognisable emotions plus a wicked sense of humour. Readers will enjoy searching the illustrations for the fine detail on each page.

Franky is testament to a young child's determination to prove that his beliefs are valid and deserve acknowledgement. An inspiring book to share with children that reinforces there are no limits to hopes, dreams, and the imagination.

Author/illustrator's website:

www.leotimmers.com

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett



