



The Frank Show

David Mackintosh

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This hilarious, offbeat picture book from the creator of *Marshall Armstrong Is New to Our School* reveals that there is more to the older generation than meets the eye. Grandpa Frank doesn't have any interesting hobbies, unless you count complaining about how *everything* was better in the old days. He doesn't speak Italian like Paolo's mom, or play the drums like Tom's uncle. He's just a grandpa. So when the young narrator of this story is forced to bring Frank to school for show-and-tell, he's sure it's going to be a disaster. But Frank has a trick—make that a tattoo—up his sleeve! And a story to go with it. After all, the longer you've been around, the more time you've had for wild adventures.

Praise for *The Frank Show*

STARRED REVIEWS

"Mackintosh's busy, helter-skelter images contribute mightily to the story's humor and emotional honesty, but it's the willful personalities of both of these protagonists that make it stand out."

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"This humorous and heartwarming tale will inspire children to seek out their own grandparents' treasure trove of stories."

—*Shelf-Awareness*, starred review

"Pore over the funny details, soak in the humor (the things-were-a-lot-tougher-in-my-day spread had me in stitches), appreciate the very specific mood Mackintosh so successfully creates in this story, and delight in the illustration, lettering and overall design, all handled by the talented and overachieving Mackintosh."

—*Kirkus Reviews* blog

"Mackintosh writes with irreverence, and his illustrations are packed with prickly humor... But Mackintosh also draws with emotional sensitivity and empathy."

—*The New York Times* online

"Old-timey gripes gain zest from Mr. Mackintosh's exuberant and colorful collage illustrations."

—*The Wall Street Journal*

"Complete with lively pen-and-ink illustrations, this offbeat picture book is sure to become a family favorite. Along the way, it may prompt children to wonder what exciting details their grandparents have yet to reveal about their own life stories."

—*BookPage*

"The cartoon illustrations are very funny. Frank's oversize glasses with a missing right temple enhance the mood. A sweet story that proves that elderly relatives can be cool after all."

—*School Library Journal*

"As a lover of vintage and vintage-inspired children's books, I was instantly enamored with *The Frank Show* by British illustrator and designer David Mackintosh — a charming homage to grandparents and the art of seeing beneath the grumpy exterior."

—*Brain Pickings*

"The art is appealing as well; digitally created scenes pulls together planes of vivid color, a multitude of

small elements outlined in black scrawls, and elements of collage."

—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"Reminding readers that everyone has a story to tell, this picture book is fun to read while providing insight into human character."

—*Reading Today Online*

Awards:

GOLD - Parents' Choice Award Winner, Picture Books

The Frank Show Details

Date : Published August 1st 2012 by Harry N. Abrams (first published March 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9781419703935

Author : David Mackintosh

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Family, Humor, Academic, School, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Frank Show for online ebook

Angela says

There's a lot you don't know about your grandparents, youngsters! That's the gist of this quirky picture book. The illustrations are fun and the story has a great message about multi-generational relationships and mutual understanding, but I fear it may be lost on young readers.

Carly says

The Frank Show is a fabulously illustrated book that is bold, quirky, colourful and attractive to look at. The storyline is brilliant and I'm pretty sure true for a lot of little people out there. My daughter (4) really enjoyed this one and it held her attention throughout.

The kids in school have to talk for a full minute about someone in their family. The boy asks his mum and dad if he can talk about them, but they are too busy. So the only person left to talk about is his granddad Frank and he is only an old boring granddad.

The book has a fab little message, even though the boy thinks Frank is boring others don't and he ends up being the star of the show. Everyone thinks Frank is so interesting and when he talks about old times, they find out that he was a real hero. The boy's best-friend Tom ends up wanting to come over just to see Frank again.

You might wonder why I keep saying the boy, well no name was given for him and it really done my head in but my daughter never even noticed. Overall a wonderful little book that will be read again and again. I think most will enjoy this but especially the boys.

Megan says

hombre just makes me gag a little these days.

Emily Stueven says

In the eyes of his grandson, Grandpa Frank is old and boring and, well, just kinda worthless. So, what's the boy supposed to do when he has to bring Frank to school for show-and-tell?

This is a sweet, funny book about family and about valuing one's elders. Everybody's got a story, and Frank, it turns out, has many stories. Though he might rail against the amenities and noise of the modern age, when Frank finally relays his lifetime of experience, he opens his grandson's eyes and thrills his grandson's classmates. They exclaim with wonder, in a richly detailed and comic picture: "He can't smell anything because of his amateur boxing career," and, "He hasn't bought a new pair of pants in ten years."

The pictures are very busy--the kind a kid could probably spend hours looking at--and full of references only

adult readers will pick up on; for instance, Frank's memories of his younger days are populated by the figures of Edgar Allan Poe and Lon Chaney.

It's a fun book for old and young, and maybe best when shared!

Tabitha Scott says

This book was so good especially to help children understand the importance of their elders and grandparents. Shows them to never judge a book by its cover.

Beth says

What's a boy to do when you have to "show and tell" a member of your family at school and the only person available is your cantankerous old Grandpa Frank?

In *The Frank Show*, our young, unnamed narrator has a dilemma. He hears about all the cool, interesting family members his classmates are bringing in for show-and-tell, but all he can think about when having to talk about his grandpa is his mile-long list of complaints about the younger generation. This show-and-tell is bound to be a disaster... or is it?

The Frank Show is a wonderful book for kids and teens alike that is full of humor while also tugging on your heartstrings. Everyone has members of their family whom they often say, "It's just grandpa" or "It's just mom" and fail to appreciate all of the wonderful pieces of them that have been overlooked by their singular view of that person. What David Mackintosh has set out to accomplish in this story is to help kids see past their myopic view of their family members and dig deeper into who they are as people, not just as mom, dad, or grandpa.

Read the rest of my review on my blog.

Jenni says

This is a really lovely book that has an important message to share but does so in a fun, light hearted manner. Much of the book is spent with the narrator talking about all the reasons Grandpa Frank is not a good subject for the upcoming Show and Tell – he's old, he doesn't like new things, and everyone else's relative is just a better choice. The inevitable reveal that Grandpa Frank is not as boring as the narrator believes is done really well, there's a strong visual clue first of all (I want to read this book with a group of children so I can talk about this with them afterwards) and then of course it's spelt out in the story.

One thing I loved was that in spite of the narrator focusing on all the reasons why Grandpa Frank is an uninteresting subject there is a lovely moment when he jumps to Frank's defence – it's one thing for him to be aware of Grandpa Frank not being very interesting but it's a whole different matter for someone else to suggest it. This made me smile, we can all be like this about the people or things we love and I really liked its inclusion in the story.

I like the art style a lot, every page has lots of detail to absorb but they never feel cluttered or overly busy. There are two double page spreads with lots of pictures of different characters doing different things – I really enjoyed poring over them and I'm sure young readers will too.

Kelly says

The bling on the cover title 2013 USBBY award winner, reminds you of Broadway lights, and indeed, this is the type of stardom the young boy in the story hopes to achieve by introducing his Grandpa Frank to his class. The front dust jacket gives you a hint that the font will vary in size and type. This is always intriguing. The endpapers are set in a grayscale color palette and show a collection of items presumably from Frank's life. There are microscopes, pipes, lanterns, movie cameras, medals, boomerangs and an espresso maker. The sketched illustrations are mostly full-bleed or with a narrow white border. There are single page illustrations and many two page opening illustrations, most of which have a lot going on. Frank's grandson, by process of elimination, aspires to dazzle his classmates with his Grandpa, but he worries that they will find him boring. This is not the case.

Use this story as part of a text set about families, and what we can learn from others. What did you think of Grandpa Frank at the beginning of the story? What did you think of him at the end? Why do you think he said some of the things he did?

Emily says

??????

Irene says

Summary: In "The Frank Show," author David Mackintosh introduces readers to a boy who is embarrassed to talk about his grandpa for show and tell at school. Grandpa Frank, "doesn't like noise, or today's music, or gadgets and gizmos," and his grandson has no idea how to talk about him to his classmates! The boy is disappointed that Grandpa Frank is not as exciting as Kristian's dad who is a comedian, or Donny's dad who works in a potato chip factory. But even though Grandpa Frank might be old and cranky, it does not mean that he was never young and exciting. It turns out that Grandpa Frank has much more to say at school than his grandson thought. Did you know that Grandpa Frank, "led an army in a charge across a muddy battlefield?"

Audience: This book is great for children who are in the lower elementary level grades.

Appeal: This story teaches readers to never underestimate people based on their appearances (like age), and to be sure to spend time with people in order to learn more about them. It is never appropriate to assume that you know someone unless you talk to them about their experiences. It is also a good way to encourage children to be respectful and aware of the differences between themselves and their elders. It is important for children to realize that older people grew up in different time periods and may not be as accepting of all the new trends. It is also good to point out to children that even though your grandpa or grandma may seem cranky, there might be more to them than you think!

Implementation: I would read this book and then encourage children to bring someone from their family to

show and tell to talk to the class. This would be a great method to learn more about the student's personal life, like their family's beliefs, values, and culture. It would also be a great way to get parents and family members involved in the classroom.

Bibliography: Mackintosh, D. (2012). *The Frank Show*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers.

Storywraps says

Ever have to bring a family member in for a Friday show and tell? Ever have your family abdicate and all you have left to take is grumpy, old grandpa who seems to complain about everything there is to complain about? He doesn't like modern gizmos and gadgets, he has no hobbies, doesn't speak another language or play a musical instrument, he uses an old typewriter to type on and hasn't bought a new pair of pants in ten years! He hates haircuts, doctors and any sort of ice cream that isn't vanilla. What can you say about such a boring, uncool guy in the one minute allotted to you?

Downcast and mortified the narrator (an unnamed boy) has no alternative but to bring his grandpa to school, present him to his class and try to get through this horrific experience. The boy approaches his assigned presentation like he is headed for the gallows. Mackintosh draws him alone and in grey, while his classmates laugh and shout in colour on the opposite page. The illustrations are a combination of ink, pencil drawings, paper collages and photos. He uses a great color pallet, just perfect for the storyline.

What the boy discovers is truly remarkable. His grandpa starts spinning stories that mesmerize the whole class. Grandpa can eat pickled onions right out of the pickle jar, he can catch a fly with his bare hands and let it go again, he has a rubber band ball that is twenty-eight years old and he even has a cool tattoo!!! The class is enamoured with Frank's grandpa. He is a big hit and they treat him like a rock star.

We are reminded that every one has a story and (a life) before they become a grandpa. It is so worthwhile to bridge that generation gap and take time to sit down and listen to the elders around you. These older people are filled with wisdom and knowledge that I am sure they would love to share with you. Make an effort to find out what stories are buried deep inside your grandad (or grandma) and you will be much richer for knowing them.

Amy Forrester says

There is nothing exciting about this little boy's grandpa, Frank. And this is an issue for the boy because on Friday he has to give a show-and-tell presentation in class about someone in his family. He has to talk for a whole minute! He rules out his baby sister and his mother and father say, "no." That leaves Frank. All week other students give amazing show-and-tell talks about fascinating family members. The boy is distraught and although he gives his presentation, he thinks it's pretty lame. Frank doesn't like modern technology or fancy food or today's music or anything but vanilla or doctors. The boy thinks all is lost, but then Frank begins to tell the class stories. Stories the boy has never heard before. Thrilling stories of battles and bravery! "And everybody cheered for my grandpa Frank and me."

Like Mackintosh's first book, *Marshall Armstrong is New to Our School*, this book features a main character who comes to the realization that unconventional does not mean something is uninteresting or boring. I couldn't find anything on Mackintosh's website or on the copyright page, but it seems to me the illustrations

are a combination of digital and hand drawn elements with loose charcoal lines and many collage elements. The result is a vintage-y stylistic world, both detailed and impressionistic. The text and illustrations are from the boy's point of view. As you read the book, watch as Frank changes from being rendered in mostly grays to vibrant full color. The text is conversational in tone and utilizes italics, bold, and changes in font size to give certain words or phrases emphasis.

Full Review at Picture-Book-a-Day: <http://picturebookaday.blogspot.com/2...>

Deborah says

Picture books about grandparents are hard to pull off — there is a fine line between heartwarming and way-too-sentimental. This one successfully avoids the latter; it's fresh and funny.

Jillian says

"The Frank Show" by David Mackintosh tells the story of a young boy who is SO bored with his Grandpa Frank. Frank does not like the same music that the young boy likes, and he will not even pay to get a haircut. Frank has not even bought a pair of new pants in 10 years! In fact, Frank even told the young boy that "These days there are too many gadgets and gizmos. I prefer doing things the old-fashioned way." How boring for the young boy! And to top it off, the young boy has to give a one-minute presentation on Frank, and try to make him seem interesting to his friends at school. How could he possibly do that when his Grandpa is positively the most boring person on the planet? Read "The Frank Show" by David Mackintosh for a good laugh, and to realize that people are not always who they appear to be.

"The Frank Show" by David Mackintosh made me giggle, and feel sentimental at the same time. Our generation is so technologically advanced, and often it is hard for the younger generation to imagine life without their computers, iPhones, and credit cards. Yet, for the older generation, it is difficult to adjust in a society that they are definitely not used to. Frank is old, and he knows how to save his money. He is very uncomfortable using any sort of modern technology. This book did an excellent job of addressing differences between the older generation with the younger, tech-savvy generation. Frank is a great Grandpa, and I loved learning about him. He reminds me of my own Grandma.

I would definitely use this book in my future classroom. I would use it in a lesson to demonstrate differences, and teach my future students to get to know their older relatives. Often times, children are sometimes not as close or even scared of their older relatives. Yet, David Mackintosh clearly demonstrates to children in his book that older people can be funny, interesting, and teach us a lot of lessons. I recommend "The Frank Show" by David Mackintosh to any elementary teacher!

Davenport Public Library says

Grandpa Frank is just a grandpa and he doesn't seem to like anything (except pickled onions), so how could his grandson possibly talk for a whole minute about him in front of his entire class?

In The Frank Show by David Mackintosh, Frank's grandson is nervous about presenting about his curmudgeon grandfather during show and tell. Especially since his friends have exciting people to introduce, like Fay's cousin who "tells you if your bag is too heavy at the airport" and Hugo's stepbrother who's sports car has an eight-ball gearshift knob.

The Frank Show is the perfect example of a picture book that seems to have been written more for adults than for kids. I see the jokes flying right over younger kid's heads, and not many children are going to spot Edgar Allen Poe and his raven in the illustrations. But that doesn't mean that I don't recommend this book — because it is fantastic. Mackintosh's illustrations are funny and child-like, filled with subtle references and jokes. This story is as much about the generational divide as it is about taking people for granted — both topics rarely explored in picture books. Grandpa Frank's exaggerated stories and cranky advise are entertaining, and his grandson's fears are completely understandable. Seriously, pick up this book. You won't be disappointed, unless you're Frank. I'm sure he'd say that they don't make them like they used to or something as equally crotchety.
