



Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom

Eric Wight

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Chapter book meets graphic novel in this first book in the series everyone will be talking about. Like most kids, Frankie Pickle hates cleaning his room. But what happens when his mom says he never has to clean it again? For Frankie and his unstoppable imagination, it means he and his sidekick, Argyle, can become explorers swinging on vines, forging paths through piles of clothes, and scooting past lava pits. They can perform flawless surgery on a broken action figure. They can spend time in the big house. They can even become superheroes. But when junk piles grow too high, will all this imagining be enough to conquer . . . the closet of DOOM?

Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom Details

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Author : Eric Wight

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From Reader Review Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom for online ebook

Fox Lake District Library says

19 kids signed up for Radical Readers to read Frankie Pickle! They loved the comic book/chapter book style writings and the Lava monsters were a big hit! We discussed the pros and cons of cleaning our rooms. For our craft we made our own Superhero masks and tried to think up our own superhero names just like Wonder Pickle.

Janessa says

“Reality is for grown-ups!” This is a quote from a pirate-clad Frankie on the back of the book, and it perfectly expresses the scope and tone of Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom. Eric Wight’s comic creation is a celebration of the imagination, and each page ruptures with a laugh-out-loud sense of humor.

I picked the book up for my nine-year old son, Hunter, to read. I wanted to spice things up for him a bit. In the past couple of months he has read Harry Potters 4 and 5 and The Lightening Thief by Percy Jackson. He has really enjoyed all of them, but I didn’t want him to become daunted by reading such long novels all the time. I thought Frankie Pickle would be a nice break for him — a fun, light read. Well about an hour after I handed it to him, he was finished reading it, and he emerged from his room with a smile on his face, ready to tell me all about Frankie’s silly and fun adventures.

One of the really interesting and innovative aspects of the book is it’s format. Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom is a mix of traditional chapters (pages filled with print) and illustrated pages that are written in a graphic novel/comic book format. As much as my avid reader loved it, it would be the perfect book for boys who may be leary of a traditional chapter book.

For a school assignment Hunter decorated a large tin can to look like Frankie Pickle, and then put ten slips of paper on the can that described Frankie. Here is what Hunter wrote:

- Frankie has a crazy imagination.
 - Frankie doesn’t like cleaning.
 - Frankie’s best friend is Kenny.
 - Frankie’s dad likes baking.
 - His mom let’s him get dirty.
 - Frankie’s dog and sidekick is named Argyle.
 - Frankie leaves a sandwich on his floor.
 - Frankie’s sister likes sports. Her name is Piper.
 - Frankie’s real name is Franklin Lorenzo Piccolini.
 - Frankie’s baby sister is named Lucy.
-

Nicola says

Miss 3 didn't like it. She adores Captain Underpants so I thought the comics might appeal but she found it jarring that he keeps having different mini-fantasies instead of the comics being consistent and more integrated.

Miss 3 and I like to explore different books and authors at the library, sometimes around particular topics or themes. We try to get different ones out every week or so; it's fun for both of us to have the variety and to look at a mix of new & favourite authors.

Abby says

A great read with kids book. :) Half chapter book and half graphic novel, my tutoring kids adored it. Go lava monsters!

Kristy Ann says

Eli wouldn't let me put this one down.

Brad says

Frankie Pickle rocks. It is laced with satirically charged pop culture references; it has a protagonist who is almost as likable as Watterson's Calvin; it has a Dad who's at home in the garage as he is in the breakfast kitchen; a Mom of wisdom and coolness, and a pair of fair sisters who are cool in their own right. Plus, Frankie has a dog named Argyle.

His smelly lesson is what Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom is all about, though, and it rocks as much as he does.

This book is an excellent mix of comic graphics and prose, which is the perfect shift for boys and girls moving from storybooks to pre-teen books. Yet it didn't blow me away. It was good. I liked it. I did, but it was more butterscotch than vanilla. And that's nowhere near chocolate.

AMY says

79 pages. Fun graphic novel about a boy who has fantastic adventures in his bedroom that most definitely needs cleaning. When his mom gives him the ultimatum to clean his room, he doesn't comply. All kinds of things happen as a result. The story flips back and forth between regular text and graphic novel style plot moments. Kids will really enjoy the sarcasm and fun episode. I think boys will especially enjoy this one. Highly recommended for Grades 4-5.

Betsy says

In the past, it was easy to figure out what children's books fit where. Thirty-two pages that are 11 X 8 inches? Picture books. Thirty-two chapters of smallish print? Older middle-grade fiction. See? Piece o' cake. Then graphic novels had to come in and throw the whole system in the blender. At first it was easy to catalog them. You have comic book panels and speech balloons? In the new Graphic Novel section of the library you go. Then Captain Underpants came along and ruined everything. Wait . . . you have speech balloons and long passages of text? Images and words mixing it up willy-nilly with nary a by-your-leave? Impossible! Inconceivable! But there it was. The result? Meet *Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom*. The first in a series, Frankie's books are the natural successor to *Captain Underpants*, stirring together pictures and words in a raucous melding that's bound to entrance reluctant readers, but still be enough fun to lure in hardcore comic book fans. Expertly penned with a wry sense of humor entirely its own, Frankie's a welcome addition to a difficult to define category.

It's the worst of all possible worlds. A beautiful day, video games to be played, and what does Franklin Lorenzo Piccolini (a.k.a. Frankie Pickle)'s mom tell him to do? Clean his room. Fortunately Frankie has a wild enough imagination to get him through anything. One gigantic robot fight later and his room isn't the least bit clean. In fact, it's worse! But instead of punishing him, Frankie's mom strikes a deal. He doesn't have to clean up his room, but whatever the consequences are, he'll have to deal with them himself. Frankie agrees readily, but soon the delights of filth turn out to have problems enough of their own.

When it comes down to the writing and the art, they both work but I'm probably more a fan of the latter than the former. Not that the plotting has anything wrong with it. Wight includes plenty of details that I've not seen done in a children's book before. While everything from Calvin & Hobbes to Harold and the Purple Crayon has used the motif of bringing a child's imagination to life, there are some ideas in here that are wholly Wight. For example, at one point Frankie falls through a veritable ocean of his own stuff. In doing so he is able to see all the stuff he might own in the past, present, and future. Other things I liked, a mock version of *Dora the Explorer* as the French *Avril the Traveler* ("Bonjour, mes amis!"). The rat sidekick in the beret is a nice touch. Or the robot with the catchphrase "It's Hammerin' Time". A pity it's not wearing Hammer Pants as well. Finally, any book that shows a clean room and then calls it "a museum of awesome" has my love.

Still, it's Wight's art that's the real draw. There's a clean-lined, almost angular style to it. Wight takes the time to shake up the panels, angles, and fonts when needs be. I'm also going to assume that it's not easy to constantly have to figure out where the written text, as opposed to the panel text, goes on a given page. In a comic book an artist has to be constantly aware of where the speech balloons and narrative appear. But at least the characters aren't constantly peeking out from behind a paragraph, or twisting to avoid a run-on sentence. On each page Wight has to constantly keep in mind where image gives way to text or text bows in the face of image. He makes it look easy, and it's not. There's some sophisticated work going on behind the scenes here.

Let's now talk about Frankie's mom. For reasons entirely of my own, Frankie's mom became my favorite character in the book (sorry, Argyle). Here's my reasoning on this. At one point in the novel Frankie pretends that he is defending the city against a malicious giant robot attack. Grateful Mayor Mom then enters the room and is wearing the greatest outfit of all time. It's kind of tiny, so you may miss it, but essentially she's decked out in a top hat, mayoral sash, and fishnet stockings. Between the grandmother in the Magic Trixie books sporting open toed leopard print boots and these stockings, children's literary fare is getting its share of eccentric outfitting. I have other reasons for enjoying the presence of Frankie's mom besides her son's

strange interpretations of mayoral fashion, though. To look at her, Mrs. Piccolini is every bit the 1950s housewife, from her neat bob to her Capri pants. However, if you happen to take a close look at the family dynamics at work here, you'll see that it's actually Frankie's dad who does the cooking in the household. Woot!

I doubt not that in some libraries *Frankie Pickle* is going to get seriously confused with Magic Pickle (another great graphic novel series, only that one actually stars a real pickle). However, for those library systems in the know *Frankie Pickle* is going to find its fan base without any difficulty or confusion. For those kids in need of a transitional book between comics and novels, Wight provides. A good early chapter book, and fun to boot. Boys, girls, and small white well-read dogs will all be able to enjoy Frankie's adventure and hope that the future yields more. Real good.

Ages 7-10.

Gideon says

IT WAS AWESOME. it was so funny when he falls in to all of his junk.

Courtney Umlauf says

This is a decent middle grade series. There's plenty of good vocabulary, and a nice amount of standard text vs. graphic novel pages. I wish Frankie's friend, Kenny, and the pet dog, Argyle, had been better incorporated. Kenny's supposed to be Frankie's best friend, but there's no relationship development and barely any interaction between the two boys. Rather, Kenny seems to occasionally pop up out of no where for a bit of added humor. The idea that Kenny never talks, but only communicates through means of music (playing his trumpet, whistling, etc) is a fun idea that feels underused.

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Miloš & Brontë says

Pa: So what did you think, Loš?

Miloš: I liked how he could move clothes with his mind, and I liked how he could clean up his room like that *snaps fingers*! And I liked how he cleaned up his room and said, "I should take a bath," and how at the end he was tired along with the baby boom, or just Lucy. And I liked how he, um, fixed GoGoRobo.

Pa: Did you like his family?

Miloš: Yeah! I liked Lucy. I liked Dad. I liked Mom. And Piper.

Pa: You're missing someone important. Who was his best friend?

Miloš: And I liked Kenny. How all he did was play music, to speak, that's what he did to speak.

Pa: But Kenny's not his best friend.

Miloš: Oh! I liked Argyle. I liked how in the dream he could surf. I liked how Argyle could stand up. I liked how Argyle helped him clean his room.

Pa: But can't everyone stand up?

Miloš: Mmmm,. Most dogs can't He's a dog.

Pa: Aaaah.

Miloš: He's a human. Why do you keep writing Pay?

Pa: I am writing, Pa.

Miloš: Oh. I see.

Pa: Was there anything else you dug?

Miloš: No. I said that's it. But it was a fun book too.

Pa: Okee Doke.

Mohsen M.B says

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Andrew says

If anybody remembers the old Bobby's World t.v. show, this will be a walk down memory lane.

Kid's imaginations are amazing things. Using the world around them to create exciting adventures, especially when it concerns "cleaning your room".

Join Frankie Pickle as he sets off to deal with the closet of doom, aka what happens when you don't clean your room....Duh Duh Duh....

Good for reluctant readers; Quick read; cute story; fun; comic strip transitions of illustrations of Frankie from his imagination and reality;

Abby Johnson says

This hybrid graphic novel/chapter book is going to be just right to booktalk to 3rd graders who enjoy adventure books. Frankie Pickle is a boy with a lot of imagination and he's about to face his biggest challenge yet: cleaning his room! Lots of kids will identify with Frankie's struggle (he doesn't see the POINT

in cleaning his room!) and laugh at his attempts to get out of cleaning.

The graphic novel sections add appeal and do not seem forced. Frankie is a kid who loves comic books and adventure stories, so the comic sections fit right in with his story.

Lindsey Rick says

Can totally see my reluctant readers enjoying this one!
