Crankenstein

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Recently, I was having an extraordinarily wretched and terrible day. I’d locked myself out of my own car, taken a spill while running, and discovered several reeking "surprises" from my puppy in the house. There was no doubt about it. I WAS CRANKY! I WAS FUMING! I WAS LIVID! I was so mad, I felt like an angry monster: all red and huffy, slamming the sidewalk harder with every step. When suddenly I saw the cover for Crankenstein. And there, staring back at me.....was me. A kid who was so cranky, he’d turned into a little cranky monster! Just like I had. As soon as I saw it, and how irate we both were, I BURST out laughing. My bad mood was foiled and replaced by laughter. That would have to be the thing I loved about this book MOST. Yes, we all have cranky rotten days.....but as
long as we can find a way to laugh at OURSELVES, and find the humor, things are going to alright. Especially with a friend.....who likes us even at our crankiest.

This is one of those books that you look at and think the title and subject matter is so perfect that it should have been around for the last 25 years. The writing and the illustration are both spot on. My 6 year-old keeps asking us to read it over and over again. But of course, he doesn't relate to being cranky - no not ever.

I was so happy to see this come on to the book market. And even happier when it arrived in my mailbox and proved to be such an awesome delight. I love using humor in counseling. Kids GET humor. Kids NEED humor. Sometimes the best medicine to a problem is laughter. Children (and adults) will be wowed by the illustrations. What a fun way to open up some dialogue on how to handle life’s cranky moments. Crankenstein is going to be a blast to read. Can’t wait for all the giggles. But I mostly want kids to look in the mirror and reflect on their own moods and how to handle them without becoming such a crankster. Enjoy this one!

The ultimate test for the quality of a book is the enjoyment of my grandchildren (ages 5 and 6). When they asked to have it read again and again and want to take it to bed, I know it’s a good book. The ultimate test is when the oldest grandchild, who is 10, asks me to read it to her and then gives her version of being cranky: "I get cranky when my mom and dad have to go out of town!" Satisfied grandmother

The new hit book at my library. Our main character wakes up in the morning and he is awfully cranky. So cranky that he is, we learn, Crankenstein. Cranky about everything. Cranky, cranky, cranky. You will love the resolution of this story. Perfect pacing, great illustrations, and just the kind of ending every teacher and parent and child will love.

Every child has days where he/she feels like this (well, moms do too!). Not as much text as I would have liked, but the monster has great appeal to the young readers. I personally liked Berger’s "Martha Doesn’t Say Sorry" & "Martha Doesn’t Share" titles more than this one, although I think the publisher’s choice of pink and purple covers keeps some boys from reading the stories that I’m sure they would enjoy.
Buyer beware! I ordered the book for my 2 & 4 year old kids thinking there would be some lesson on how to change their mood when cranky. There is no such lesson in the book. Every page uses the word hate which I don't think is appropriate for such young children. Needless to say a week or so after receiving and reading the book to my kids my 2 year old got frustrated by another child at the park after my son was accidentally hit. I couldn't believe the words coming out of his mouth. I actually had to stop and listen a 2nd time because I couldn't believe it. "I hate you!" We don't use the word in my house and he is not yet in pre school. Where could he have learned it? Well two days later I picked up Crankenstein to read and it dawned on me Crankenstein HATES on almost every page. The book is now at our local Goodwill. Thanks Samantha Berger!

Crankenstein by Samantha Berger Illustrated by Dan SantatRecommended Ages 3 to 7I am a huge fan of Dan Santat who illustrated this book. His illustrations make me want to read his books. This one crafted by Samantha Berger is already checked out of the library and had a hold! Crankenstein looks quite similar to another well-known monster with a similar name. He is green with blood-shot eyes and jet black hair. Though he has scowl on his face, he looks quite comical. The book Crankenstein is about a child who is having a really bad day. Crankenstein is in a monster of a mood and for every question he is asked, his answer is "MEHHRRRR!!" It starts from the minute he gets up and continues on through the school day. When he meets another Crankenstein, he has a surprising reaction which ends the tale on a fitting note. Kids will have fun looking at his silly facial expressions. In addition they will agree with the many of the reasons for his crankiness. A book that will be read over and over and change your mood from cranky to happy before you can say "MEHHRRRR!!" : [...]

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