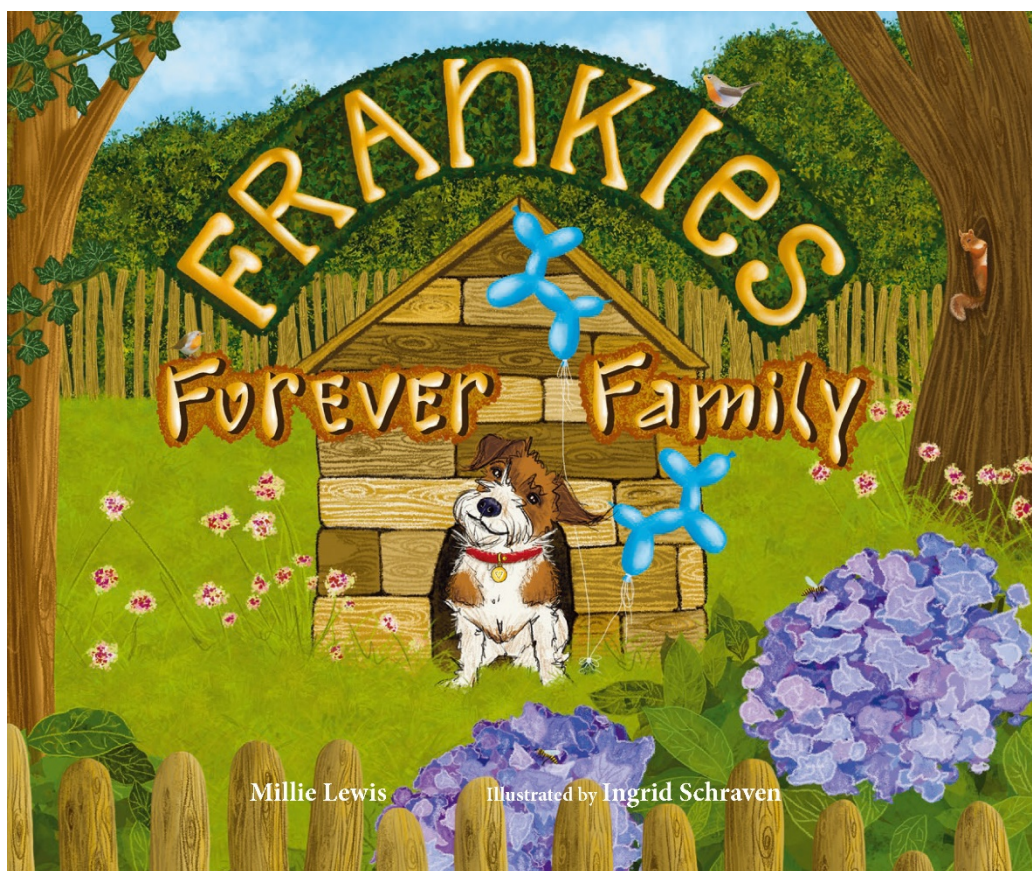


Frankie's Forever Family

Teaching Notes

Author: Millie Lewis

Illustrator: Ingrid Schraven



SYNOPSIS

Frankie's Forever Family is the heartwarming tale of a sprightly rescue dog on a quest to find a forever home. The local park hosts a 'Forever Friends Day', and Frankie tries to impress potential owners with his tricks and charm – but they fail to understand his joyful barks. Just as it seems that Frankie will be going home alone, a young girl named Jessie appears, speaking his language – Dog.

"Frankie's Forever Family" is a moving and joyous story that explores the connections we share with others and the need for belonging. This book features striking, detailed artwork that captures the joy and warmth of the story.

From the Author:

This story is loosely based on my own rescue dog, Jerry. When I first met Jerry at the shelter, he was having a hard time finding a forever family because of his deep, booming bark (it was very loud and a little bit scary). However, I quickly understood that this was just how Jerry said 'hello'. I brought him home with me that day, and he became an extremely important and much-loved part of my family (and, incidentally, he rarely barked once he felt more relaxed in the comfort of his new home!).

I wrote this story because I wanted to capture the magic of what it means to be a 'family' – that special sense of 'belonging' that you find when you meet someone who truly understands you. The fact that I was also able to gently educate young readers about pet adoption at the same time was just a wonderful bonus!

In the Classroom

Before Reading:

Discuss what is seen on the cover:

- Introduce the book by looking at the cover:
 - What can children see?
 - What emotion do you think Frankie is feeling?
 - Why do you think this?
- What do you think the story is about?
 - Why do children think this?

Additional cover discussion:

- Do any children share the same letters from the title in their name?
- What colours can be seen on the cover?

During Reading:

What can be seen during the story?

- How many dogs are looking for their forever families?
- Who do you think is taking the photographs?
- Do you think the lady with the briefcase can understand what Frankie is trying to say?
- How do you think Frankie is feeling when he realises he is the only dog left?
- Do you think Jessie can understand what Frankie is trying to say? Why do you think that?

After Reading:

Discussion about what children have learned from the book:

- What do you like/dislike about this book?

- Do you have pets at home?
 - How are they a part of your family?
- Who are the important people in your family?
 - Why is this?
 - How do they make you feel happy?
- Do you have any special abilities?
 - What makes them special?
- What special abilities do your friends/family have?
 - Give specifics.

Classroom Activities:

Responding to the text: In this story, what does it mean to belong to a 'family'?

Think about the character of Frankie in the text. Why do you think having a family is so important to him? How do we know that Frankie and Jessie are a 'family'?

Improvising on the text: If you were Frankie, what special talent would you use to try to impress the different people at the park?

About the Author:

Millie Lewis lives in Sydney, Australia, with her husband and two children. She is a devoted dog lover (especially rescue dogs) and gives the world's best ear scratches and belly rubs. Millie writes for children because children are wonderful. She is a firm believer in the magic of picture books, which leaps off the page and into the world every time a child delights in a good story.

About the Illustrator:

Born in a small town in the Netherlands, Ingrid Schraven is a self-taught illustrator, former travel agent, and mother of three active boys. In her spare time, she enjoys the company of her Dachshund who is recovering from paralysis. With lots of love and affection and using extensive therapy, her dog drives her ambition and inspiration to draw compelling illustrations for children, regularly having animal characters take the lead role.