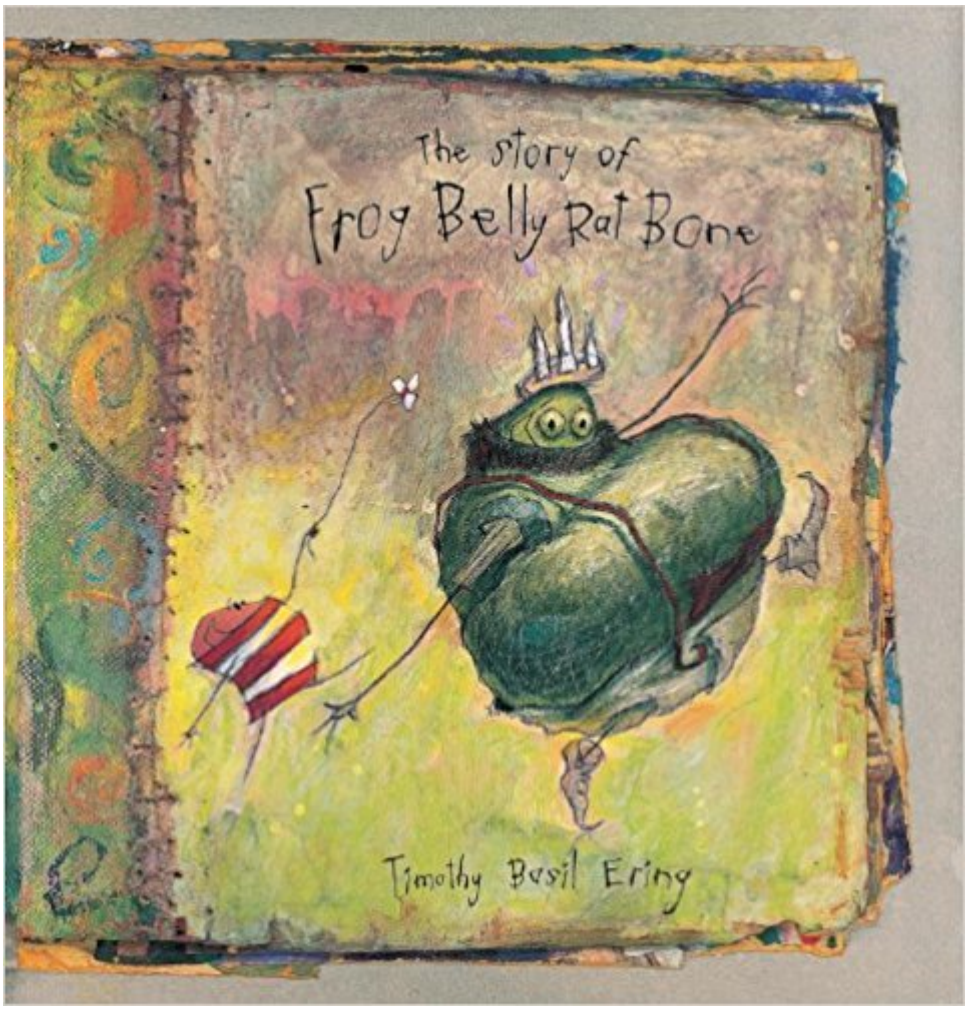
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The Story Of Frog Belly Rat Bone



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Synopsis

"FROG BELLY . . . plants the idea that with some strategy, good communication and goodwill, you can grow wonderful things." Ã¢â ¬â •PORTLAND PRESS HERALD"Frog Belly Rat Bone,one, two, three . . .the specks in the earthare protected by me.You must be patient andthen you will see. . . ."Once upon a time, in a dull, gray endless place called Cementland, there lived a very special boy who wished to find a treasure. After much searching among piles of greasy toaster ovens and wet smelly socks, he spies a box filled with specks and a wrinkled note that says, "Put these wondrous riches in the earth and enjoy." Horrified to learn that thieves are after his treasure, the boy scrounges the junkyard and conjures a creature to stand guard - a scarecrowlike gardener with crooked bony arms, a giant belly, a jaunty crown, and preternatural wisdom: Frog Belly Rat Bone, king and protector of the specks.With subtle, delicate tones, fantastical figures, and bursts of glowing color, the surreal artwork and hand-lettered text of Tim EringÃ¢â ¬â„¢s picture book debut exude all the whimsy of an inspired imagination - and the wonders of a natural world that awaits discovery, even in Cementland.Included with each book: a whimsical full-color bookmark offering a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the artist, his technique - and his inspiration!

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #855,600 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Recycling & Green Living #2221 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art #4455 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

K-Gr. 2. Welcome to Cementland, "a dull, gray, endless place" of ruined buildings, exposed

plumbing, and things in corners that nobody really wants to see. In that gloomy land dwells a special boy who finds a treasure. But it is one thing to find a treasure and quite another to keep it when thieves are around. To protect the loot, the boy (a round-headed, neckless stick figure) builds a creature from wire; wet, smelly socks; and other things at hand. And so is born Frog Belly Rat Bone, and before kids can say "junkyard dog," Cementland is transformed into a garden of Eden. The story is both predictable and a tad didactic, but the art and the design are extraordinary. Ering's combination of hand-lettered text and scribbly, muddy, scratchy pictures looks like a collaboration between Tim Burton and Ralph Steadman (in a good mood). Even better, the book's covers are embossed to offer tactile pleasures that the textured inside art only implies. Children will skim the story, but savor the art. Michael CartCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Timothy Basil Ering says that THE STORY OF FROG BELLY RAT BONE was inspired by a visit to Descanso Gardens, a botanical garden in Pasadena, California, where there is a private garden for urban Los Angeles schoolchildren. "For as long as I can remember, I have loved to mix up words and phrases into silly little combinations that would make me laugh," he explains. "IÃ¢â ¬â„¢d make up songs while meandering down the outer beach of Cape Cod to favorite fishing spots, and Ã¢â ¬ËœFrog Belly Rat BoneÃ¢â ¬â„¢ was always a favorite string of nouns. Then one day in Pasadena, I sat at a tiny picnic table in the childrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s garden and began to sketch the gardenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s scarecrow. I knew at that moment that Frog Belly Rat Bone had found a home." Timothy Basil EringÃ¢â ¬â„¢s artwork has appeared in books, magazines, theater sets, private murals, and fine art galleries. A resident of Somerville, Massachusetts, he is enamored of the sea and has a passion for nature and the outdoors. This is his first picture book with Candlewick Press.

Timothy Basil Ering created a clever tale of possibilities by juxtaposing the dark, drab, dreariness of cement and metal with vibrant flowers and exuberant creatures. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve grown especially fond of two supporting characters, a funny rabbit and a fruit fly wearing an ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I Heart JellyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• t-shirt.Young readers will love exploring for the unexpected within. For instance, in one last lovable spread, Basil stitched his story together, just like he stitched up his dancing protagonist Frog Belly Rat Bone.This story may make you scratch your head. But in a good way. BasilÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s living and breathing text and illustrations help us believe that something can come out of nothing. And the best riches are often camouflagedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •in little specks, unlikely heroes, and the art of diplomacy.Favorite line:

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Monster!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• said Frog Belly Rat bone. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“But my dear boy, youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve made me far too good-looking to be a monster!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•

Such a fun story! I admire all of Basil Ering's books. The story begins with a little boy playing in "Cementland" - a dark, dirty, junk-filled abandoned area. He's looking for adventure, and discovers a box with a curious note, instructing him to put it's contents into the earth. He does just that, then waits a few minutes... but nothing happens, and he goes home. The next day, he finds the treasure missing (stolen by thieves!) and decides to build a monster (think: scarecrow) to scare away future thieves. Frog Belly Rat Bone is born, and protects the treasure (seeds.)ÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã â ˆÃ Â•GOOD MESSAGES IN THIS STORY: The boy is creative. He does not give up. He builds a monster to protect the treasure. The monster (Frog Belly) is more funny than scary. The thieves feel remorse and apologize for stealing. Thieves return the treasure and ask to be forgiven. The boy, monster, and thieves work together to care for the treasure, which results in a complete transformation of Cementland, now beautifully alive with all types of plants. The lush garden is a food source for the thieves, who no longer need to steal food. The thieves helped solve their food scarcity problem by growing a garden.ÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã Å’Ã Â

My son bought my two older grandchildren this book a few years ago for Christmas. They loved having it read to them. I returned the favor by buying his two sons (my youngest grandchildren) this book. They love it too.It is a totally different book from the artwork to the style of the printing. It will be a book they will keep through the ages. It just goes to show what a difference a few little black specks can make in the world.

My favorite story to read to my kids. It also gets the weirdest looks when you tell the teacher you want to read it to the kindergarteners.

I love this book and my 4 year old daughter does too. I bought this as a gift along with a little flower garden.

One of my favorite books. For kiddos and adults, too. It has a great message and is fun to read. Sweet. I buy it for all my friends with kiddos.

Arrived in great shape- love the books by this author/illustrator!

The artwork is incomparable. Really, that alone is reason enough to buy the book. It's not your typical cutesie kids' book pictures, but something much more. I pulled out my newly arrived copy to show my sister, who paints (and sells) some pieces in a local gallery, and she paged through it again and again. The artwork has that much depth. And the story is very good too, making the book well worth buying. I'm sure I'll be back to look for more from this author/illustrator.

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