

Book review by Victoria Wang

*My Dog Socks* by Robyn Osborne, illustrated by Sadami Konchi

ISBN: 9781925272826 (hardback)

Price: AUD \$24.95 (hardback)

A very amusing read with some great illustrations. The book is relatable on many levels – more so for dog-loving children. It centres around Socks, who is an ordinary dog in reality but through a little boy's imagination, Socks is extraordinary. Socks can transform into different animal disguises with different environments in which they play. However, at the end of the day and regardless of Socks' many disguises, the little boy shares an unconditional love for Socks and is apparent 'when he is by my side, he is my best friend'.

The story smartly incorporates the use of rhythm, rhyme and alliteration to give children between the ages of 3-8 the perfect introduction into some more vocabulary. For example, the book describes the Sock as a 'friendly frog' 'croaking and soaking, sliding and hiding'. Using the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent closely connected words, the author cleverly engages her audience whilst making it entertaining by the use of rhyme to connect with a child's mindset. It is the perfect learning tool for young ones, and would be an excellent read aloud classroom or bedtime story.

The illustrations also complement the read. Big pages splashed with drawings and colour captures a child's attention with the illustrator's empathetic, lively portrayal of Socks playing around with the little boy. Minimal words included with the illustrations capture the relationship between the happy duo making it easier to understand. I imagine that more books relating to the duo will follow.

I would definitely recommend this book as it is beautifully heart-warming especially to families who own a pet, particularly children who own a pet dog. A mix of humour, love and adventure. I was smiling the whole time whilst reading the book.

The story clearly shows the happiness and joy it brings when the little boy is with his dog. Particularly when they do everything together. The author is sending a strong message that no matter what, regardless if the little boy is happy or sad, Socks is always there for him and is his best friend. Whether it be licking his face, cuddling him asleep or playing in the dirt.