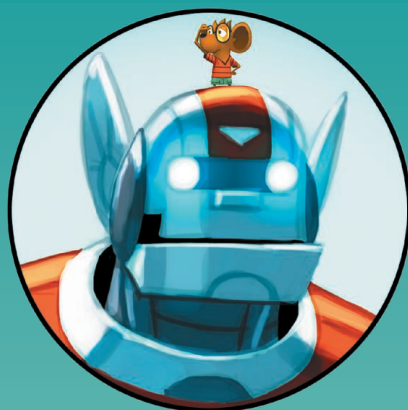


RICKY RICOTTA'S
MIGHTY
ROBOT

VS.

**THE NAUGHTY NIGHTCRAWLERS
FROM NEPTUNE**



STORY BY
DAV PILKEY

ART BY
DAN SANTAT

SCHOLASTIC INC.

**FOR MIGHTY MEENA AND HER
BEST BUDDY, NITRO NIKHIL**

– D.P.

**FOR ANAMIKA, PHIL, CASSANDRA,
MEGAN, AND CHERYL: THANKS
FOR ALL YOUR HELP.**

– D.S.

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Pilkey, Dav, 1966 – author.

Ricky Ricotta's mighty robot vs. the naughty nightcrawlers from Neptune /
story by Dav Pilkey ; art by Dan Santat.
pages cm

Summary: By flipping the pages, the reader may view animated illustrations that follow Ricky Ricotta, a small mouse, his giant flying robot, and his annoying cousin Lucy as they battle the nightcrawlers from Neptune that are invading through a wormhole.

1. Ricotta, Ricky (Fictitious character) — Juvenile fiction. 2. Mice — Juvenile fiction.
3. Robots — Juvenile fiction. 4. Heroes — Juvenile fiction. 5. Cousins — Juvenile fiction.
6. Worms — Juvenile fiction. 7. Neptune (Planet) — Juvenile fiction. [1. Mice — Fiction.
2. Robots — Fiction. 3. Heroes — Fiction. 4. Cousins — Fiction. 5. Worms — Fiction.
6. Neptune (Planet) — Fiction.] I. Santat, Dan, illustrator. II. Title.
PZ7.P63123Rsk 2015 813.54 — dc23 2014027756

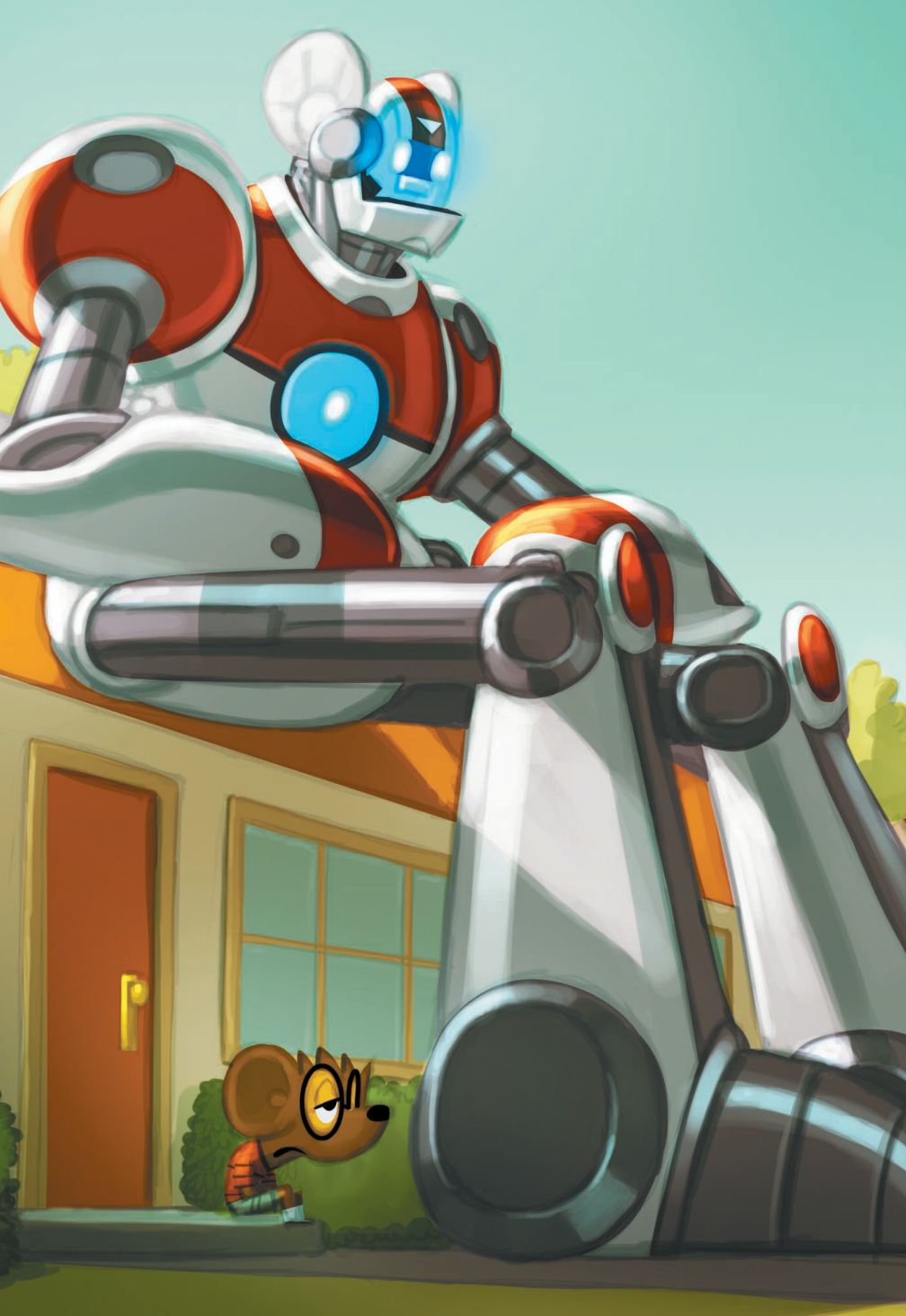
ISBN 978-0-439-37709-6

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 16 17 18 19 20 21

Printed in the U.S.A. 40

First printing, February 2016

Book design by Phil Falco



CHAPTER ONE ***THE FORT***

Ricky Ricotta and his Mighty Robot
sat on the front steps of their house.
They were bored.



“We are going shopping,” said Ricky’s mother. “I don’t want you boys making a mess while we are gone!”

“A mess?” said Ricky. “When have we ever made a mess?”



“Every time you jump in a mud puddle, you make a big mess,” said Ricky’s mother.

“Oh, yeah,” said Ricky.



“And every time you climb a tree, you make a big mess!” said Ricky’s mother.

“Oh, yeah,” said Ricky.



“And every time you chew
bubble gum, you make a big mess!”
said Ricky’s mother.

“Oh, yeah,” said Ricky.



“I know,” said Ricky’s father. “Why don’t you boys build a fort?”

“A *fort*?” said Ricky.

“Yes,” said Ricky’s father. “You can use tree branches, or cardboard boxes, or even old pieces of metal and wood to make a fort!”

“That sounds like fun,” said Ricky.



“Great!” said Ricky’s father. “Just remember, you must clean up after yourselves when you are done playing.”

“We will,” said Ricky.



“Good-bye,” said Ricky’s mother.
“And remember: NO MESSES!”
“Don’t worry,” said Ricky.



Ricky and his Mighty Robot
walked around town looking for
things they could use to make
their fort.

Ricky found a stick.

Ricky's Mighty Robot found
a piece of string.



Then Ricky and his Mighty Robot found something even better.

At the edge of town, the mayor and the city planner were looking up at a rickety, old building.



“We must tear this old building down,” said Mayor Munster.

“It will be a big job,” said the city planner. “It will take lots of time and cost lots of money.”



Ricky got an idea.

“Mr. Mayor,” said Ricky, “my Mighty Robot will tear this building down for free if you let us keep all the pieces.”

“Really?” said Mayor Munster.
“It’s a deal!”



So Ricky's Mighty Robot began taking the building apart, piece by piece. He stacked all the pieces in a nice, neat pile.

"This is perfect!" said Ricky.
"Now we have everything we need for our fort!"

