



A Day with Wilbur Robinson

William Joyce

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No need to knock, just step right in. You're just in time to two-step with Grandfather Robinson and his dancing frog band. Cousin Laszlo is demonstrating his new antigravity device. And Uncle Art's flying saucer is parked out back.

It seems like all the Robinson relatives are here, so be prepared. And keep your head down...Uncle Gaston is testing out the family cannon.

A Day with Wilbur Robinson Details

Date : Published September 30th 1993 by HarperCollins (first published January 1st 1988)

ISBN : 9780064433396

Author : William Joyce

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction, Humor, Time Travel, Kids, Family, Adventure

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From Reader Review A Day with Wilbur Robinson for online ebook

Cindy Mitchell *Kiss the Book* says

Joyce, William A Day with Wilbur Robinson, PICTURE BOOK Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2017 (originally published in 1990). \$17.99. Content: G.

This picture book was the basis for the "Meet the Robinson's" movie (2007). The illustrations are brilliant and artistic, the story is relatively plotless (looking for grandpa's teeth) but the large illustrations - reminiscent of the illustrations from the 1920s- 1930's makes this as visually pleasing for adults as fun for the children. Adventure, daredevils, inventors, and time travel make this a great introduction to Science Fiction.

EL (K-3) - ADVISABLE Lisa Librarian

<https://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2017...>

Chak says

The inside jacket says "Ages 4 - reasonably ancient," so I didn't have to guess on an age range for this one. Thanks, Harper Collins! This very silly book is a great intro to crazy sci-fi for kids. The narrator goes over to Wilbur's house for a visit, and while Wilbur is bored out of his mind, his wacky family of absurdist scientists is creating novel and ridiculous things and scenarios. This book is for kids who are prompted to giggle incessantly by any sort of non-sensical mayhem. There are a lot of 1940s-looking illustrations and not too much text.

Matthew Hunter says

The book that inspired the hilarious film *Meet the Robinsons*. Usually, I prefer books over film adaptations. Not in this case, however. The story's silly, and quite frankly, unnecessary. But the artwork! Beautiful. Art for art's sake, I guess.

The kids giggled a few times, especially during the dining scene where Cousin Gaston uses a mini cannon to shoot what looks like meatballs at the expectant, gaping maws of the rest of the family. Randomness depicted in an aesthetically appealing way. I suspect the little ones would give higher marks to A Day with Wilbur Robinson. But I'll hold firm with my curmudgeonly 2-star stance.

Zacaro Caro says

This book was written by... Mad libs?

Apokripis says

A Day Like No Other

(A Review of William Joyce's *A Day with Wilbur Robinson*)

Few children picture books have that rare quality to equally charm and enchant youngsters as well as adult readers. William Joyce undoubtedly has it; this coming from someone who came around his second Joyce picture book and never seems to tire to read it repeatedly, for *A Day with Wilbur Robinson* is his best work I've encountered yet.

As the title makes plain, this simple plot, "a thickly disguised account of William Joyce's childhood," tells of the unnamed narrator's (possibly Joyce himself) experiences on a day spent in the house of his best friend Wilbur helping him find Grandfather Robinson's lost dentures and chatting with their oddball of a family. There's their unusual butler, Aunt Billie playing with her train set, cousin Pete walking the cats (actually full grown tigers) and Uncle Gaston sitting comfortably in the family cannon. We also get to meet Uncle Judlow relaxing using his "brain augmentor" which "helps him think deep thoughts," cousin Lazslo trying his new antigravity device, and a group of frogs who dance and sing their way into the reader's heart.

As with *Dinosaur Bob and his Adventures with the Family Lizardo*, Joyce truly excels in fusing the outrageous with the mundane. His straightforward, almost prosaic storytelling complements and contrasts his wildly colorful, surreal illustrations with a retro-futuristic feel, a stylized variation reminiscent of 1930s comics. Actually each page is a story in itself. I think the best way to approach this book would be to spend a few seconds reading the text and a lot of time exploring the corresponding illustration. One builds on the other, and the story grows and grows with each reading.

Readers of any age will spend much more time than a single day visiting the pages of *A Day with Wilbur Robinson*, where dinner time is more than just a warm family affair; it is also lively and fun with dinner-serving robots and food-shooting canon. Bedtime is far from the normal sleepover when after an exhausting pillow fight, they all fall asleep atop a tree, listening to Uncle Art telling his outlandish stories while frogs play their violins.

Indeed, *A Day with Wilbur Robinson* is quite adventure and every visit is anything but dull.

Book Details: Book #23 for 2011

Published by Scholastic Inc.

(First Scholastic Printing, April 1992)

32 pages

Read on: June 15, 2011

My Rating: ★★★★★

[See this review on my book blog **Dark Chest of Wonders** and for many others.]

Dianna says

The book on which the movie *Meet the Robinsons* is based. Pretty weird. So's the movie.

Kristen says

I HAD NO IDEA THAT THIS WAS A BOOK BEFORE IT WAS A MOVIE!! I absolutely love the Disney movie, "Meet the Robinsons". I had no idea that it was a book **before** it was a movie! I thought it was a Disney creation around Disney's famous "Keep Moving Forward" tagline.

This book was so much fun. Disney did a great job pulling most of the experiences that Lewis had at the Robinson house. I loved all the funny things that happened to them. My favorite part was the dinos hanging out at the pool. The illustrations were fun too - they look older than 1993. It almost makes it look like they're from the 70s, but then the story is a futuristic story. It was a lot of fun.

The entire story is basically just the scene from when Lewis is trying to find Grandpa's teeth. I think anyone who loves that movie will really enjoy this short book. I will definitely look to add this book to our library for the nostalgia.

Tati Dengo says

If you've watched and loved the movie, this book may not fit your expectations, so just leave those at the door when reading this.

A Day with Wilbur Robinson is fun for kids because the illustrations hide all sorts of zany details, especially when you near the margins. The compositions are very unusual in that the center is left wide and open, while some very curious events happen almost entirely out of the frame.

This book is also a good example of how in a picture book, the illustrations serve to expand the text, rather than just being very literal about it. One of the cousins is playing with a train set, the text says, whereas the picture shows a full-scale train. Another cousin is "walking the cats", who happen to be tigers.

I can see this book being very fun if you're little and want to spend many repetitive hours wondering at the people in the pictures, but if you're looking to find exactly what you saw and felt in the movie, you won't find it here.

Elisha Condie says

We love William Joyce books at our house. This one and "Dinosaur Bob" are our favorites. This book is so cool - the narrator kid goes to spend the day at his friend William Robinson's house. The Robinsons are all super cool - Uncle Orbley has an anti-gravity machine, Grandpa conducts a frog swing band, and William's

sister wears a prom dress shaped like a skyscraper with a hat that includes King Kong and airplanes.

I wish our lives looked like William Joyce's illustrations. If I had to pick which literary world to inhabit, Joyce's is in my top three. (What? Like you've never wished you were a Gryffindor. Or a Bennett. Or whoever.)

Ms. Sweeney says

His art work is novel but i'm never impressed with his writing.

Melissa says

This is pure childhood imagination at its best. This book has everything in it from anti-gravity machines, jazz playing frogs, pillow fights, a larger than life train set, and an uncle who likes to shoot himself and food out of a cannon. The illustrations are by William Joyce and are essential to the story line. In fact, without the illustrations the story really would not make much sense at all. They are painted to enhance and add to the story. They are reminiscent of the 1930s and bring an almost comical vibe to the story. This story would be fun with kindergarten through the middle grades. I could see using this as an entry to a creative writing assignment. Reading the story and then having the students write about their own day with Wilbur Robinson. Creating subsequent adventures, and being limited only by their imaginations. This book is children's fiction at it's best. No moral, no lessons, just pure fun, which sometimes kids need more than anything else.

Krissy says

This book was a lot of fun and my son loved it!

Lisa says

The Robinson household is very unique. Wilbur Robinson's best friend has come for a visit, and they spend the day searching for Grandpa's teeth among dinosaurs, robots, giant worms, dancing frogs and Wilbur's extremely eccentric family members.

This picture book was the basis for the "Meet the Robinson's movie (2007). The illustrations are brilliant and artistic, the story is relatively plotless (looking for grandpa's teeth) but the large illustrations - reminiscent of the illustrations from the 1920s- 1930's makes this as visually pleasing for adults as fun for the children. Adventure, daredevils, inventors, and time travel make this a great introduction to Science Fiction.

K.D. Absolutely says

A Day with Wilbur Robinson (1990) is a children's picture book written and illustrated by William Joyce. I reviewed his earlier book *Dinosaur Bob and His Adventures with the Family Lazardo* yesterday so this is my second book by him. I am still impressed.

However, I think what really impressed me was its movie adaptation, *Meet the Robinsons* (2007) that Jzhun also lent me together with the book. Had I seen only the book, I would have rated this with 2 stars (It's okay) because the plot was so thin there was almost nothing to talk about. Let's say, a friend asks you what the book is all about, there's only this: 13-y/o **Wilbur** invites his friend, 12-y/o **Lewis** to his house to look for the false teeth of his grandfather. In the course of their search, the Lewis meets Wilbur's eccentric family members. Then in the end, they find a frog wearing Wilbur's grandfather's false teeth inside the mouth of smiling frog! Dear me, the frog is not even the big variety of frog, e.g., Neobatrachia, so that I could imagine it to be feasible. Do frogs have gums so they can wear false teeth? Ha ha

In the above picture, Lewis and Wilbur are the two boys in the center. You can also see the grandfather without his false teeth. Too bad that the frog is facing the family so you cannot see his face and the grandfather's false teeth!

The film adaptation though is very entertaining and my daughter says that it is one of his favorite movies. When she saw the DVD copy that I borrowed, she said that we also have the same copy and I was even the one who bought and she's seen it several times already. I know why, I said. It must be because of that scene when Lewis is about to meet his real mother who left him when he was still a baby, at the doorstep of an orphanage. No, she said. I like it because of his passion to invent new stuffs including the time machine. No wonder, my daughter is a robotics enthusiast and I have no doubt that this movie was one of those (the other being Jimmy Neutron, Robots, The Terminator series and the Transformer series, etc) that influenced her to like machines and robots.

Overall, although I liked *Dinosaur Bob* more because of its simplicity, *A Day with Wilbur Robinson* has more funky and eccentric but interesting characters. It's just that there so many of them that almost each just did not do anything but introduce themselves. It's like seeing stars on television and the host is given only a very short timeslot so he has no enough time to even ask each one a question.

Thank you for lending this book and the DVD copy to me, Jzhun. Next time, tell the grandfather to put Polident paste on his dentures so it will not slip ha ha!

Amy says

3 star read I'm bumping up to 4 because I love the movie it inspired. Very creative and imaginative. A delightful children's book but not a particularly amazing one.
