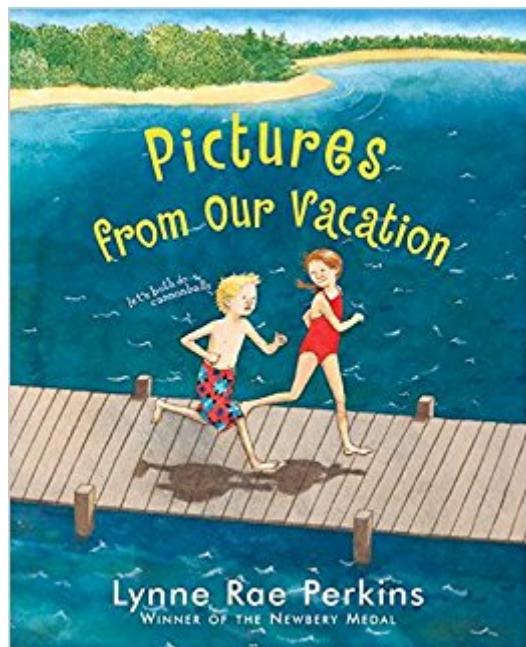


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# Pictures From Our Vacation



## Synopsis

Snap!With their new camerasSnap!a brother and sisterSnap!take pictures of their vacation.But when they look at their photographs they see:1. The back of Dad's head2. Feet3. A container of noodlesThat's it? Does 1 + 2 + 3 = summer vacation?What about how it felt to swim in the lake? What about the stories their cousins told and the taste of a just-invented strawberry and whipped cream dessert?For those memoriesâ "the memories of summer and the memories of family that mean the mostâ "they need to look someplace else. Someplace deep inside. Someplace permanent.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; First Edition edition (April 24, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060850973

ISBN-13: 978-0060850975

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #31,493 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #361 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 2â "5â "This deceptively simple, thoroughly engaging story is a child's account of her family's cross-country road trip (complete with hand-drawn maps) to visit the old homestead. Before they embark, Mom gives her two children instant cameras and notebooks to document their travels. But the kids quickly discover that what they record on film has little in common with what they actually experience. The snapshot of the back of Dad's head as he drives, for instance, fails in every way to capture the way it felt to be in the car with him at that moment. Photos of grass, a mountain, the sky, or cropped feet in no way reflect the endless days of rain, the secret swimming spot, or activities in the lake. The youngsters also find that on the very best

daysâ "when the large extended family gathers at the farmâ "they are just too busy to take any pictures. Perkins's colorful, line-intensive illustrations incorporate a lot of detailed thought bubbles and plenty of peeks inside the narrator's notebook. Vibrant watercolor renderings include the lush scenery from a variety of perspectives, the characters and their activities, their vivid imaginings, and the kids' captioned "photos." The whole is infused with wonderfully understated accidental, but child-centered humor. A journey into family dynamics, shared experience, and memory that is well worth the trip.â "Catherine Threadgill, Charleston County Public Library, SC Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*Starred Review\*** Many books idealize the joys of family vacations. Here's a more honest look at the way those trips make memories. Mom, Dad, son, and daughter, who narrates, have high hopes about a trip to the old family farm. But the drive is long and boring, and when they arrive, Dad sees happy memories, while everyone else sees old furniture and dust. It's downhill from there. Rain falls and falls some more. The local lake is hard to find, and rain ruins that outing, too. A memorial service for their dad's recently deceased great-aunt seems as though it will be the worst part of the trip, but a funny thing happens. Family appears; stories are swapped; bonds are forged. In the beginning, the narrator's poorly shot photographs, always of meaningless things, provide a kind of visual hook. After the extended family arrives, the girl doesn't take pictures. She's too busy making memories, "the kind I can keep in my mind." Perkins, who won the Newbery Medal for *Criss-Cross* (2005), shows she is equally adept at illustration. Using many overhead perspectives and with an eye for small details, she offers watercolors that beautifully capture all that is real about family vacations: boredom, disappointment, fun, and love. Ilene CooperCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

This book brings back childhood memories and gives parents ideas for creating memories for their children.

Good book! I read it the first day of school to my third graders.

I bought this for the kiddos that visit our vacation rental home. They seem to like it as it is always left out on the coffee table upon departure, which tells me that it must have been read. :)

Good read for beginning of school year!

Incredible book and mentor text.

I bought two copies of this book for our grown sons at Christmas. We had taken summer vacation trips every year and they both had received cameras on summer trips. We all enjoyed this story very much!

As promised.

This book is so cute. I used it as a beginning of the year read-aloud for a pre-writing assignment. My 3rd grade students loved it. It has such wonderful pictures and the story is a blast.

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