



Pictures from Our Vacation

Lynne Rae Perkins

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Snap!

With their new cameras

Snap!

a brother and sister

Snap!

take pictures of their vacation.

But when they look at their photographs they see:

1. The back of Dad's head
2. Feet
3. A container of noodles

That'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 memories—the memories of summer and the memories of family that mean the most—they need to look someplace else. Someplace deep inside. Someplace permanent.

Pictures from Our Vacation Details

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Author : Lynne Rae Perkins

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From Reader Review Pictures from Our Vacation for online ebook

538AM_Steph says

As a family embarks on a vacation to visit their great aunt's lake-house, the mother gives the narrator young girl and her brother cameras and notebooks to record their vacation as they see fit. The narrator girl of the story describes new situations she encounters, which reveal the inquisitive and imaginative mind of a child as the reader is taken through every thought. After traveling along with the girl, the reader partakes in the enlightening moment where the girl understands that memories of experiences are much more rewarding than anything a camera can capture.

"Pictures from our Vacation" provides many opportunities to allow first or second grade students to make predictions, to explain what they'd do in a similar situation, and other story line events that could engage students to practice reading comprehension strategies. In addition to literacy work, "Pictures from our Vacation" could supplement a social studies lesson tying the narrator's experiences to map work or discussion about encountering new places.

Although this story details exploration of new places and encounters of new experiences, the theme of women empowerment is evident as the narrator girl discovers that her great aunt lived an interesting and adventurous life and was a pioneer in women's rights. Her father suggests that she has the ability to do the same and the young girl is inspired by this. Overall, I think that "Pictures from our Vacation" would connect well with students because of the voice and tone of the young girl narrating paired with the illustrations showing her thoughts that together emphasize the inquisitive mind of a child. Having the children relate to this story would help them to reflect on what can be revealed about people, places, and oneself by reflecting on these thoughts.

Jessica Blonder says

Pictures From our Vacation

By Lynne Rae Perkins

Newbery Medal

Grades: 1-5

Summary: A little girls and her family head out on a vaction to the family's old farm house. It takes 2 days by car to get there and the vacations isn't very enjoyable. It turns out that a family member has passed away and there will be a memorial service. Everyone from the family turns up at the farmhouse for the weekend. The old farm house finally feels full.

Review: This book is hard to follow story wise and reading-wise. the author was trying to do something clever with the placement of the words on the page but it just looks like a mess and it's hard to follow.

Activities in the classroom:

Get a few cheap disposable cameras and have the students take one picture each. Once developed, the students can caption them and hang them around the classroom

Writers workshop: Where did you go on your favorite vacations? or : where have you always wanted to go on vacation?

Have the student design their own vacation cottage, let their imagination go wild.

Kay Prell says

The kind of vacation we've all had at least once: "What just Happened?" "Why are we here?"

And the kinds of pictures we have all taken: "Huh?"

Also, a very basic introduction to map skills. A and J seemed to enjoy being ahead of the book's Dad on how to find the lake, tracing the paths, etc.

Kyle Young says

Pictures from our Vacation by Lynne Rae Perkins is a story about two kids who were both given instant cameras on their family vacation. The book is organized around the pictures that the two children took, even though they both took no traditional vacation photos. Their family vacation is not a traditional family vacation, but both children seemed to enjoy it. The illustrations in this book were interesting.

Brittany says

This was a good little book about keeping your memories close to you. A sweet little read for the older (5-8 year old).

Bree says

Notes:

NOT a read-aloud, but a fun look-through on your own book

Kelli Stonebreaker says

I rated this picture book 3 stars because I thought it was really boring and didn't push any boundaries. The illustrations in the book was the only thing that kept me interested. The mother gave her daughter and son cameras and a notebook so they could take pictures and write about their vacation. I would not use this book in my future classroom because I don't think it would benefit the students but I will have it in my classroom library so students can look through it on their own if they would like. I think I wouldn't have minded it so much if it was a lot shorter because it just kept on going on and on and I didn't know what direction the book was going in. The illustrations have bright colors and the layout on some pages is like an actual scrap book such as caption written under the picture. I thought it was a little much how the text was bent and not just written out because I felt like there was too much going on.

Megan Visele says

The narrator is the young girl who went on vacation to their grandparent's farm. She and her brother were given new notebooks and cameras to use as souvenirs for the trip. When going to see their grandparents, the two children took pictures of everything. Throughout the book, the children noticed that their best memories were the activities captured on camera. The way the book was laid out was fantastic. They were traveling through the illustrations. The illustrations were very detailed and colorful, caught my eye immediately. The illustrations are as if you are viewing their vacation from above in a plane. This book gave me a weird feeling at first, but I quickly grew into the book. I would recommend this book to any little one who is getting ready to go meet new family or who is going on a nice adventure.

Bookishrealm says

I didn't like this one at all. I didn't understand the purpose of it and I feel like the "meaning" that is demonstrated at the end is slightly forced and doesn't necessarily come across as genuine. While I did appreciate the artwork the story-line was not interesting in the least bit.

Sam McKillop says

1. This book won the Newberry Medal.
 2. This is appropriate to be read by first and second graders.
 3. A family went on vacation to an old family farm and the mother gave her children a polaroid camera to keep track of everything that happened on this vacation. But the children did not take many pictures after a great aunt's memorial service with all cousins, aunts, and uncles that the children did not even recognize. The older child realized that even though pictures are cool to have, pictures cannot capture the feelings that were experienced at that exact moment, but memories include pictures and feelings.
 4. This book is a good way to remind students of what is easily forgotten; not everything has to be captured by a picture and that everyone should experience life and not waste their time trying to take pictures of it. Not everything has to have a picture to go with it and not everything has to be shared on social media. This book is just the beginning of this idea.
 5. As a teacher, I would have my students read this right after a break (either summer, winter, or spring break). One activity to go along with it is to have them share what they did on their vacations and to draw what think was the most fun part or the most memorable part of the vacation.
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Lynn Davidson says

A lovely story about a family going on vacation to the daddy's childhood home where much has changed. There's a family gathering when his children get to meet some family members for the first time. A disappointing vacation turns into a great one. Lovely illustrations.

Melki says

Even though things don't turn out exactly as expected, everyone has a good time on the family vacation. Who needs pictures when you've got memories?

Rachael Olson says

This book was an interesting mix of thought-bubbles, detailed pictures and everything going wrong on a vacation. I am not quite sure what the author intended in writing this piece.

Karen says

My five-year-old son picked this book out from the library today.

I know that I was supposed to like this book -- it did win a Newbery Medal -- but I just didn't. I wonder how well it would have fared against some of this year's Newbery contenders.

I found this book long, uninteresting, and, quite frankly, a bit schizophrenic. It started off with an excellent premise, but then seemed to sink quickly into the quagmire preachiness, story morals and all-round good intentions. And nothing kills the enjoyment of a book faster than that quagmire cocktail.

The illustrations were good, but seemed anachronistic against the text. Maybe author/illustrator team were striving for a timeless quality. They missed.

Actual rating: 2.5 stars, but I round up.

Naomi says

What was the point of this book? It felt like it had a rambling feeling to it. I didn't enjoy it at all.
