

William Joyce lives in Louisiana with his wife and two children. His observations about his childhood reveal how much it has influenced his work. He says, "I was raised by a congenial horde of southern screwballs. We had artists, bongo players, photographers, opera singers, actors and geologists in our family. Everyone over fifty had dentures, which were always being mixed up or misplaced. We sometimes played shuffleboard with them."

In addition to writing children's books, Joyce has also produced television shows ("George Shrinks," "Rolie Polie Olie") based on his books, and an animated movie ("Meet the Robinsons").

2009 Theme: Family Matters

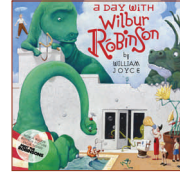
Picture Book/Easy Selection:

A Day with Wilbur Robinson by William Joyce

Each family is odd in its own way, but none is as eccentric as young Wilbur Robinson's. When a friend comes to visit, he and Wilbur spend the day searching for Grandfather Robinson AND his missing false teeth.

Along the way they encounter one wacky relative after another. Uncle Art has his own flying saucer. Cousin Lazlo has an antigravity device.

It's snowing in the east wing. And somebody left the time machine on, so . . . Well, perhaps you'd care to meet the Robinsons and read what happens next!



Discussion Questions:

- Wilbur's family is very unique. How is your family unique?
- Which member of Wilbur's family is your favorite? Why?
- The Robinsons have a pillow fight after they find Grandfather's teeth. What are some fun things you and your family do?
- What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
- Have you ever lost anything and asked your family and friends to help you? Did you find it?
- Do you have friends you like to visit? Why?
- What do you like to do with your friends?

Activity Ideas:

Wilbur's family eats together, tells stories together and even says goodbye to their guests together. Hold a family game night and do things together.

Show the movie, "Meet the Robinsons," and hold a book/movie discussion.

Have an art contest called "My Fun Family." Have kids draw something unique to their family. Display drawings on a bulletin board.

Have children create their own stories about an imaginative family.

Create a family reading log.

Uncle Judlow created a brain augments and Cousin Lazlo created an anti-gravity device. Create an invention of your own and name it.

Look over the Robinson's family tree and make your own at <http://webcontent.harpercollins.com/text/activities/pdf/0060890983.pdf>.

Related Materials:**Books about Families:**

A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams

You See a Circus, I See... by Mike Downs

Bonjour, Lonnie by Faith Ringgold

Dumpling Soup by Jama Kim Rattigan

Allergic to My Family by Liza Ketchum Murrow

Arthur's Family Vacation by Marc Brown

Moosekitos by Margie Palatini

Raisin and Grape by Tom Amico

Pictures from Our Vacation by Lynne Rae Perkins

Gullible's Troubles by Margaret Shannon

Websites related to the Robinson family:

- <http://www.williamjoyce.com/>
- <http://disney.go.com/disneyvideos/animatedfilms/meettherobinsons/>
- <http://www.harperchildrens.com/williamjoyce/homepage.htm>

For Books to Bridge the Region programs and activities taking place, visit www.books2bridge.org

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