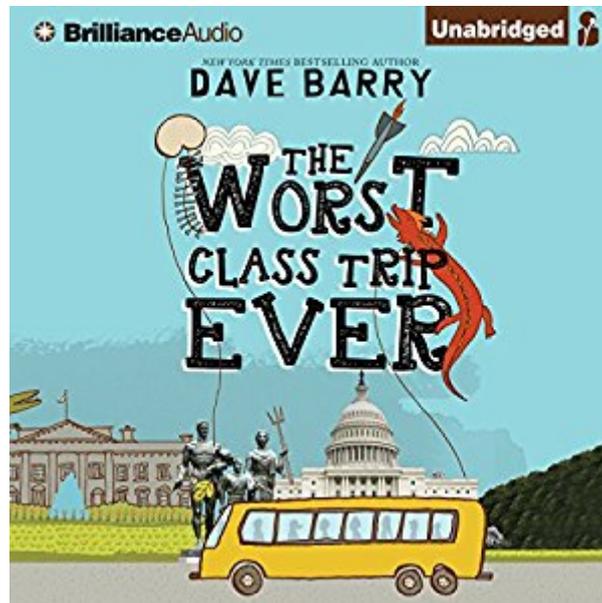


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The Worst Class Trip Ever



Synopsis

In this hilarious novel, written in the voice of eighth-grader Wyatt Palmer, Dave Barry takes us on a class trip to Washington, DC. Wyatt, his best friend, Matt, and a few kids from Culver Middle School find themselves in a heap of trouble - not just with their teachers, who have long lost patience with them - but from several mysterious men they first meet on their flight to the nation's capital. In a fast-paced adventure with the monuments as a backdrop, the kids try to stay out of danger and out of the doghouse while trying to save the president from attack - or maybe not.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #45 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Fiction

Customer Reviews

The Worst Class Trip Ever is narrated by Wyatt Palmer, an eighth grader. I suspect that eighth graders are the target audience (this is a Disney book, after all) but hey, it's Dave Barry, so it has to be funny, even for adults (particularly those who, like me, have not matured much beyond their eighth grade years). The novel relies on fart humor, always a winner for eighth graders, and "short geeky boy has no chance with cool tall girl" humor, which works at any age. The class trip that gives the book its title involves a flight to Washington. On the plane, Wyatt and his friend Matt believe they are foiling terrorists who want to attack the city, but they may be mistaken, or so the Air Marshal believes who nearly arrests them. Once in the city, Wyatt and Matt spend much of their tour time worrying about the strange men from the plane -- with good reason, given that Matt has stolen a suspicious object from their backpack. The strange men spend about half of the brief novel chasing the kids around the city in an effort to get it back. Hijinks ensue. The Worst Class Trip Ever is a quick read. The story is cute, funny in a silly but predictable way (although perhaps not so predictable to an eighth grade audience). It made me chuckle, as Dave Barry always does, although not as much as he does when he gears his writing to a slightly older audience. Barry's language is simple and

clean (unless you think fart is a bad word). I have no trouble recommending this to an age appropriate audience, which might range from 12 to 90. Maybe even a year or two younger or older.

Dave Barry has been a fave of mine for about forever, and he does the YA genre proud in his new book. The publisher's review doesn't mention it, but the best part is that the girl is the main hero. As POV character Wyatt observes, "... there are some things you just can't do, and one of them is tell Suzana Degado, who you are discovering is basically a Navy SEAL disguised as a hot eighth-grade girl, that you're afraid to go with her to rescue your friend." Be a sport and buy a copy for your local middle school library!

I have to agree with the other reviewers here who didn't think this book was up to Dave Barry's usual standards. BUT WAIT! That's judging the book but the author's adult titles..and that's not playing fair. No, from an adult point of view this novel is average at best BUT if you are a middle school reader this story will probably be a big hit. It is rather funny and totally off beat in topic which means kids will gravitate to it. Chronicling a bizarre field trip to Washington, D.C. that involves some very unlikely occurrences Barry reaches out to youngsters who enjoy crazy situations and he does do a good job drawing these folks in...so nice job Dave - you hit the intended audience!

If you like Middle School humor, including the obligatory fart joke, and if you have been to our nation's Capitol as a student or a chaperone, this book will be right up your alley. The cast of characters include the expected awkward kid and the unobtainable cool girl, but throw in some very suspicious individuals with foreign accents and a few clueless teachers, and you have a recipe for pure chaos. Give this to your middle school kid AFTER his class trip. He doesn't need any ideas!

Take a trip to DC with eighth graders Wyatt, his pals, Matt, Victor, and gaseous Cameron, along with Wyatt's wished for girlfriend, Suzana as they try to dodge out of boring tours to foil what they think are terrorists aiming to kill the president...Will the kids succeed? Or will they be stopped by the two terrorists or even worse, sent home by their teacher for messing around? Read this hilarious adventure of a group of kids who think they've spotted terrorists on their flight to Washington and then are chased by them since they think the kids have stolen some kind of top secret detonator like instrument from them....of course they have....Will the terrorists kill the president? Will the kids stop them in time? Are the kids totally wrong about the guys they think are terrorists? You'll have to read this page turner of an adventure not to be forgotten to find out!

For once again making me laugh. Mr. Barry turns the most ordinary situation into a most implausible one, then back to ordinary, all the while, making the reader giggle. Obviously, he has connected with his inner awkward child, put that boy and his goofy friends in a situation pitting them against the adults and coming out the victors. It is a fun read.

I've heard Dave Barry speak, and read a few of his books. I expected better. Overall, the story was entertaining enough, but the writing itself was lacking - not enough color and variety. There were even a few editorial errors, but it didn't know if that could be an eBook problem, or if they were truly missed. I think elementary kids would enjoy the story, but I'm uncertain whether teachers or librarians would recommend it.

This is typical Dave Barry fun with lots of zany situations, half-cocked plans, humor, and sarcasm. While the trip takes place in DC, Barry gives us a bit of Miami input with a hilarious family story at the beginning and constant references to his loud, feisty Cuban mom. This is your typical adventure story where a group of kids insist on tackling a dangerous and complicated situation on their own with no adult/police involvement. I was a little frustrated when there were two situations where the clear and safest solution would have been to call the police--where it should have even been obvious to the kids. But then we wouldn't have had the death-defying, wacky, and hilarious ending. The story moves along quickly and snappily. The kids each have distinct personalities, including a strong, brave, cool-girl character who really helps save the day. I like that our hero isn't very brave, super smart, or cool, he's just an average kid (a bit short) who manages to save the day. I see that there is a sequel and I'm rushing to reserve it at the library because I want to see what mischief and mayhem is in store for these kids next.

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