



## Are We There Yet?

*Dan Santat*

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**Are We There Yet? Dan Santat**

**Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat takes readers on the road trip of a lifetime!**

*"Are we there yet?"* Every parent has heard this classic kid question on a long car ride--and after reading this astonishingly inventive new book (that even turns upside down for several pages!), you'll never look at being bored the same way again.

Let's face it: everyone knows that car rides can be boring. And when things get boring, time slows down. In this book, a boy feels time slowing down so much that it starts going *backward*--into the time of pirates! Of princesses! Of dinosaurs! The boy was just trying to get to his grandmother's birthday party, but instead he's traveling through Ancient Egypt and rubbing shoulders with Ben Franklin. When time flies, who knows where--or *when*--he'll end up.

## Are We There Yet? Details

Date : Published April 12th 2016 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780316199995

Author : Dan Santat

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Humor

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## From Reader Review Are We There Yet? for online ebook

### Hannah says

Time, when you are a kid, seems to move at an extended pace. Especially when you are bored. Especially when you are bored on a road trip. Santat's genius new book plays with this concept the least boring way possible. A boy is on a road trip with his parents to his grandmother's birthday party, a trip that begins to feel "like a million years".... into the past. The boy's imagination takes his family car through pirate ships and knight jousts and roaming dinosaurs until... ZOOM, they're in a futuristic city with QR-speaking, picture-taking robots (yes, the QR codes are scannable) and.. WHOOSH, back to the present day, where the message, "there's no greater gift than the present" really takes on a new meaning. But wait, was this really all just in the boy's head?

This is such a fun read for all ages that really plays with the picture book format in crazy (and crazy fun) ways--there are orientation changes that help the reader feel the jolt of the time shifts, embedded technology, comic-style paneling, and of course, Santat's glorious, playful, rich illustration style. I guarantee you will want to read this book over and over (while turning it over and over), enjoying the weird, wonderful ride each time.

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### David Schaafsma says

Each year I and my family read and rate all the Goodreads picture book nominees. This one is nominated for 2016. I make a few comments and then add their separate ratings and their comment. There's 15 and this is the tenth being rated. My rating might be somewhat influenced by the family, naturally.

Me? 2 1/2-3 stars. Santat won the Caldecott Medal for 2015 for *The Adventures of Beekle, the Unimaginary Friend*. That was way better than this. This is a book about going on a trip and traveling so slowly that we actually time travel back in time to days of pirates, then dinosaurs. Okay, that's a decently inventive idea, and funny, but isn't that funny for the whole book. Creates some good madcap/silly adventures, I guess. And then, as the tell gets told, the book must be read upside down, never quite sure why. Unfunny and unoriginal title. But I liked the ending line: "But remember: There's no greater gift than the present." Snort! It's good, silly.

Tara (my wife): 2 stars. Meh. I liked turning the book around. [But why, Tara, why?!]

Harry (11): 3 1/2 stars. I like the craziness when time flies.

Hank (10): 1/2 stars. I didn't like it at all. [whoa, harsh, Hank!]

Lyra (9): 3 1/2 stars. I liked all the places he pretended he went.

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### Beth says

When taking a road trip, especially one to Grandma's house, the drive can seem endless. To the point where time doesn't just stand still... it moves backwards.

All I can say about this book is that Dan Santat is a genius. This book is cray... And I mean that in the best possible way. From time moving so slow you have to read the book backwards, to robots talking in QR

codes, and even the beloved Binkle making a surprise appearance, *Are We There Yet?* is sure to entertain the most discriminating readers.

Despite winning the most coveted prize in children's picture book illustration last year, Dan Santat continues to push himself creatively and artistically. In *Are We There Yet?* he returns to his more humorous side that we're used to seeing in his books, but he found a way to show his readers that he's trying new things and not resting on his laurels. While I certainly love *The Adventures of Binkle*, I almost love *Are We There Yet?* more (almost) because my appreciation for Santat's work went from excited for his Caldecott win to realizing he is a full-fledged artistic genius.

Read my entire review on my blog.

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### **Calista says**

What a fantastic book with special instructions. The kids wanted to read this twice simply because they like turning the book upside down. The kids go on road trips often so they know how long a trip can seem.

This kid has a Era's worth of imagination in him. They take a road trip back to the dinosaurs. They eventually make it to Grandma's Birthday party. This book is pure fun. I was so entertained and it started my day off right.

I'm a Santat fan - a SanTOT.

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### **Jessica says**

The charm is in the pictures, and in getting to turn the book upside down and sideways as a simple (yet boring) trip to grandma's house becomes an epic adventure that starts at the dawn of time and extends well into the future.

(Trust me, kids: it only feels like it's taking a thousand years to get there. But yes, it even feels that way for grownups.)

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### **Brenda Kahn says**

Well, LBYR cemented its place in my heart and earned the first two 2016 favorites designation. And, so did Dan Santat. I have been a fan of his work forever but Binkle and *Are We There Yet?* are his best work ever. *Are We There Yet?* captured the universality of the boring family car ride and the richness of imagination. Ingenious use of space and hilarious visual humor. This is not one to read just once. Share it with a young person and be prepared to reread it many times. PS: you won't mind.

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## **Agn? says**

The illustrations are gorgeous, as always :)

*Are We There Yet?* is also very innovative:

- 1) It is literally "full of twists and turns" as the story requires the reader to turn the book upside down.
- 2) One of the minor characters, a robot, speaks in QR codes, and if you scan them, you can see the "translation."
- 3) The concept is unique and clever yet so simple and universal: if you are bored, the time slows down and even starts to go backwards to the prehistoric times; if you enjoy yourself, the time flies by until you find yourself in the distant future. So the best way is to stay in the present.

However, certain sentences - e.g., "So take a second to savor the moment you're in" OR "The road is full of twists and turns... And you never know where life my take you" OR "But remember, there's no greater gift than the present" - sound a little bit too preachy. But since the last spread suggests that the main character tuned out the preachy voice and failed to learn "the lesson" of savoring the present, all is good :)

All in all, LOVED the illustrations and the idea (and the ending, haha!)

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## **Mike says**

Dan Santa's innovative use of format reignites the magic of the page flip.

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## **Christine says**

Another fantastic book by Dan Santat. I love the fact that the robot speaks in QR codes, that give you the translation of what he is saying when you scan them!!

I just read it to several of my classes and wanted to add their feedback. K & 1st grade were a bit too young to appreciate the fact the QR codes work and translate the robot (I scanned them while I was reading and enlarged the picture).

2nd & 4th grade loved it and wanted to know what app they needed so that they could scan it when they checked it out. 4th grade also loved that the book kept getting flipped around and that they went back in time while I was flipping the pages backwards.

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## **Laura (Book Scrounger) says**

Cute book -- I liked it well enough, and the fact that there's at least some takeaway from it ("There's no time like the present") made me enjoy the cartoony silliness a bit more than I otherwise would have. My son

picked it out for the Tyrannosaurus on the cover, so I think he's a fan. I liked the colors in the illustrations, and the whole "turning the book upside down" for most of the story was odd, but I think the kids enjoyed that part too.

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### **Auburn Library says**

The illustrations tell the story more than the words do. We had to read it twice to fully understand it. My boys (ages 7 and 8) enjoyed it but I don't think it would work well for storytime. I recommend it for older picture book readers.

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### **Paul Orsino says**

Most of us have had the experience of a long road-trip. The first hour or so is fun but after the initial excitement fades time....slowwwssss....downnnnn. Dan Santat takes that feeling of time slowing to a standstill and takes it a step further- time starts moving backwards! Plenty of themes and points to discuss such as appreciating the journey of life.

This extraordinary road trip story is absolutely engaging and captivating. A must read!

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### **Sarah says**

Absolutely terrific! Parents and children alike will recognize the familiar "Are we there yet?" refrain of bored backseat riders. Dan Santat's latest picture book offers an alternative - a wonderful adventure awaits travelers who utilize the power of imagination. Not only are there twists and turns in any excursion, this book requires the reader to twist and turn the pages in order to complete the story.

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### **Emma (Miss Print) says**

Maybe 3.5? This was fun but not quite as magical as I had expected. I liked the turning although I feel like it became almost gimmicky toward the end and I wonder how the story will work when being read to a crowd since some of the pages have so much going on. Still good and a lot of fun. Just not as sensational as I thought it would be.

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### **Colby Sharp says**

Dan Santat is a picture book Jedi Master.

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