



# How I Spent My Summer Vacation

*Mark Teague*

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## **How I Spent My Summer Vacation** Mark Teague

Illustrated in full color. In a wildly funny twist on the annual "How I spent my summer vacation" school-essay ritual, Mark Teague shakes up a dull classroom with a young student's imaginative account of his adventures in the Wild West. Most kids go to camp, or Grandma's house, or maybe they're stuck at home all summer. Not Wallace Bleff. He was "supposed" to visit his Aunt Fern. Instead, Wallace insists, he was carried off by cowboys and taught the ways of the West--from riding buckin' broncos to roping cattle. Lucky for Aunt Fern, he showed up at her house just in time to divert a stampede from her barbecue party! Perfect for back-to-school read-alouds, here's a western fantasy with sparkling illustrations and enough action to knock kids' boots off!

## **How I Spent My Summer Vacation Details**

Date : Published July 8th 1997 by Dragonfly Books (first published 1995)

ISBN : 9780517885567

Author : Mark Teague

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Storytime, Academic, School

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# From Reader Review How I Spent My Summer Vacation for online ebook

## Oanh says

This story takes a typical writing prompt given to students at the beginning of the year and shows what one student chose to write about. I used this story to teach my students that you don't have to list or tell what you did over the summer or the weekend-- you can spruce it up by writing it as a story and include dialogue. You're not really sure what's real or made up, but that's ok! This story takes something familiar and takes it to a different level of writing for those students who may be stuck on just the "telling" or "listing" stage of writing.

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## Audrey H says

for my school report on summer. . . this book is full of surprises, if you read it with someone! it is about a little boy and he has to do a report on what he did for summer! a little more exciting than the others, though. .

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## Katy says

Picture book of how a young man, with a vivid imagination, spent his summer vacation. Good book for teachers to use on the opening days of school

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## Heather says

Dec. 19

I was on vacation in Asheville before Christmas, and saw this in the hotel lobby, and sat down to read it.

Love the rhyming.

& how he's in front of the class, and reading out his report but the images are on the chalkboard as the story unfolds.

I like when he's lighting a fire and the bear is in the background.

The telephone booth ruined the feel of the old west.

I wondered where "kid Bleff" came from. I forgot his last name was Bleff.

'So we cleaned up (a little) and we headed her way.'

The rhymes are so clever!

'Its a scene I'll remember till my very last day. "They're gonna stampede!" I heard somebody say.

I wonder where the cattle were at?

I know what it's like to have them stampede!!

'So I turned like a matador.

& spun it around.

It was a new kind of cowboying, a fantastic display!

The cattle were frightened and stampeded...away!"

His face is so cute as he holds the red cape out!

I love how it comes back to reality and he's standing in front of the door and the bulls are on the board.& the teacher is looking at him askance as if wondering if he's telling the truth.

All that's on the board is 'how I spent my summer vacation by Wallace Bleff.' Aw!

This was the first rhyme I wasn't crazy about. "Then the cowboys all cheered, "bleff's a true buckaroo!"

They shook my hand and slapped my back,

And Aunt Fern hugged me, too.'

It ended with him saying 'I can hardly wait for show-and-tell!'

The cow and prairie dog were in the frame. I didn't understand why the teacher was standing up and her case of flowers were starting to fall.

-This was such a cute story!

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### **Karen Gibson says**

Great for teaching how to elaborate your writing with imaginary details.

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### **Diane says**

On his way to Aunt Fern's for a summer away from his overactive imagination, Wallace Bleff is captured by cowboys and taken to their camp. It seems they've had a cowboy quit, so they need a replacement. Wallace agrees and the adventure is on.

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### **Connie says**

I wish I had a vacation as interesting as this kid!

When giving his BORING report about his BORING vacation... wait, no, that was somebody else. This kid's vacation included being kidnapped. By COWBOYS! And having to stop a cattle stampede! And being a hero!

Good rhymes, great fun, and cute ending with a bull in time for show-and tell. Anybody who's had to suffer through the first day of school blues should get a copy :)

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### **Tricia says**

Great imagination story and also for children who like cowboys...little boy imagines his summer vacation is a wild west adventure.

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### **Kalynda says**

What a great read for the first day of school! I loved the words, the illustrations, and the story elements. I just sent this title to my 1st-4th grade teachers, because I could see a connection and follow-up for all of those different grades. So glad this is one I purchased!

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### **Rebecca Ashley Teague says**

This story is about a boy named Wallace. At school, Wallace is asked to tell about what he did during his summer vacation. Wallace lets his imagination run wild and pretty soon he is telling about a summer vacation filled with train rides, cowboys, and cattle herding. I would use this book during the first week of school to challenge my students to use their imaginations like Wallace did. I would have students write about their summer vacation and they could write the truth or fiction. Then, it would be fun to have students share their stories with the rest of the class and allow the class to guess whether the story was true or false.

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### **Laura Gibbs says**

I thought this book was really cute! I am beginning to really like Mark Teague books! This one is all about a boy who wrote a paper on how he spent his summer vacation- but it's full of imagination! He goes to see his aunt, on a westbound train. Suddenly, he was captured by cowboys who had bad manners and loud voices. They carried him off to a cow camp, where he was named the new cowboy. So he wrote his aunt to tell her he would be there soon, and started to learn to be a cowboy. He was given a new set of clothes, learned how to rope, ride and make fire with sticks. Finally, he called his aunt and she invited his friends over as well for a BBQ. While they were there, the animals started to stampede and he couldn't find a place to hide, so he grabbed the red tablecloth to be a matador to save the day!

This book was cute-it was all about a little boy's imagination and what he was seeing and doing while he was at his aunt's house. I think it would definitely be appealing to children to read or be read to. I loved the pictures in this one, as I did the last one as well! I think this could be used when talking about trains, cowboys and/or Indians.

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### **Jana says**

This book is a fun, rhyming twist on the age old How I Spent My Summer Vacation report. The boy in this story tells the class about his wild summer as a cowboy and his adventure in stopping a cow stampede. This might be a good way to break the ice on the first day of school and it might serve as a good mentor text to help kids who are trying to write interesting narratives about their own summer experiences.

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### **Austin W says**

i liked that he was very creative

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**Jackie says**

Oh, the imagination that sparks young children! As a student relays his experience about his his summer vacation, the class is a little taken aback. Told in rhyming passages, *How I Spent My Summer Vacation*, is funny and evocative of (school)days gone by.

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**The Reading Countess says**

Cute rhyming prose. This would be a great BOY read aloud to encourage kids to let their imaginations soar when relating what they did over the summer through turn and talk or a short writing exercise.

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