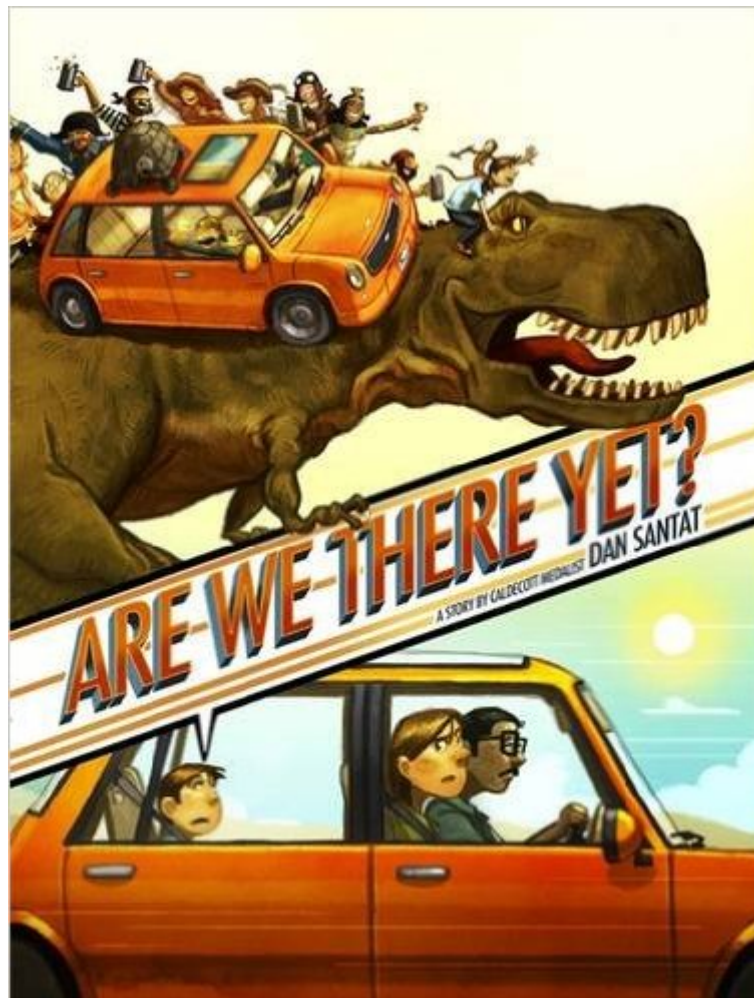


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# Are We There Yet?



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (April 12, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316199990

ISBN-13: 978-0316199995

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.2 x 12.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (29 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #27,109 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#17 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations](#) [#27 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Travel](#) [#82 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dinosaurs](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Even though this is currently the #1 bestseller in the incredibly specific genre of Children's Ancient Civilization Fiction here on , "Are We There Yet?" is not so much a history lesson as it is a wild, colorful adventure. Yes, you do get to travel back in time to ancient Egypt to witness the building of the pyramids, and yes you have a brief stop in Imperial Rome, and also a jaunt through the Jurassic period; you also get to fast forward many years from now to see what the world will be like in 2059. Time becomes fluid and unpredictable in the mind of a boy bored to tears with his family's road trip. At some point, you even have to turn the book upside down so that you turn the pages backwards in order to advance to the end of the story. Dan Santat's vivid and precocious imagination strikes again

with amazing visuals and a fun storyline. There is so much to look at, I know I'll find something new each time I read this book. But the real test is--will children love it? Yes, yes they will. Just be sure to bring this book on every road trip, because maybe, just maybe, it will keep your child from asking "Are we there yet?" every ten minutes.

Dan Santat has chosen to address a pretty common childhood experience, but in a very uncommon way. On his way to his grandmother's birthday party, a young boy asks his parents, "Are we there yet?" The looks on his parents' faces makes it clear this isn't the first time he has asked. Like many people on a road trip, the boy has quickly become bored. But things pick up on the next spread as the boy lets his imagination go on a trip of its own. These spreads where the boy imagines himself and his family in a variety of different stories makes for an interesting read aloud, as these pages are technically, upside down. On the other hand it makes for a different sort of reading experience turning the book, end over end, almost like one feels on a mind-numbingly long road trip. Another addition to the story is the QR codes included in some of the pictures which take the reader to games on the internet. And I have to say that the ending is so typical of childhood that I literally laughed out loud. Santat has created an imaginative, very relatable book about a common childhood experience turned on it's head.

I like "Are We There Yet?" because it is different. While reading the book the words go around the page and you actually turn the book upside down to continue reading through the pages. I think the story idea is creative and cute. My son is 4 and we are still working on the idea of the child imagining all of the places he could go in his mind while on a road trip. It is still a little over his head, but overall it is a creative way to tell a story. We decided to check it out from the library, I don't plan to purchase it because my son didn't express enough excitement about it, but it will probably be a repeat check out from the library.

Caldecott Medalist Santat shows the beauty of a bored mind in his new picture book. On a long car ride to his grandmother's house, a boy gazes out his window and his brain gets bored. Then time seems to stretch and slow down. The world shifts with the book turning entirely upside down! Suddenly the car is back in time. Next to a steam train with bandits and aboard a pirate ship. They make it to medieval times and then back to the building of the pyramids. Finally, they are all the way back to the time of the dinosaurs. Time can start to move again, too quickly and they find themselves in the future. Then suddenly, they are at Grandma's house where the boy is all too willing to

head back home. Santat takes the classic dull car ride that every child has experienced and shows how imagination can change the entire trip, aided by a healthy dose of boredom. Told primarily in images, this story does have commentary by the boy and his parents as well as a framing narrative that speaks to the power of boredom. The flip of the book is cleverly done where you have to turn the pages backwards guided by the helpful arrows to remind you. It feels different and wild, adding to the experience. It is the illustrations here that make the book so much fun. There are small touches like Beekle toys in the car that tie this to Santat's other works. Watch the parents' clothing change with each new time period as well as their over-the-top reactions to what they are seeing. The images change from comic-like frames to large double-page spreads. The space is used very intelligently, allowing for new reveals with page turns and creating tension as they move through time. A great new picture book from a master author/illustrator, this picture book will have you looking forward to your next car ride. May it be filled with boredom. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

ARE WE THERE YET? by Dan Santat is an inventive picture book that explores the age old question "are we there yet?". When a young boy becomes bored on a long road trip to his grandmother's birthday party, he imagines that time goes so slow that it begins flowing backwards. Along the way he sees pirates, knights, camels, and even dinosaurs. However, soon the story shifts to the future. Careful readers will spot QR codes that can be read by electronic devices. These codes lead to secret messages. Young readers will also notice small things like the way the parent's clothing changes and his dad's beard grows as time flies. Children will also enjoy the play on the word "present" at the end of the story. Librarians will find that the illustrator's use of upside down pages will be a hit with children. Buy multiple copies of this book because it will fly off the shelves. To learn more about the author, go to [...] Published by Little Brown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Hachette. ARC courtesy of the publisher.

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