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This Is My Home, This Is My School



Synopsis

Drawing from his own childhood experiences, Jonathan Bean takes the autobiographically inspired family he introduced in *Building Our House* through the special rhythms and routines of a homeschooling day. For young Jonathan and his sisters, Mom is the teacher and a whole lot more, and Dad is the best substitute any kid could want. From math, science, and field trips to recess, show-and-tell, and art, a school day with this intrepid, inventive family will seem both completely familiar and totally unique. Includes a selection of family snapshots and a note from the author.

Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) (October 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374380201

ISBN-13: 978-0374380205

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 11.6 x 316 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 56 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,338 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life](#) #418 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School](#) #1202 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life](#)

Age Range: 3 - 6 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 1

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 1 **—** In his second semi-autobiographical picture book, Bean introduces young audiences to one family's homeschooling experience. The well-paced narrative draws clear connections between the details of a traditional school environment **—** with a teacher, a cafeteria, and classrooms **—** and a homeschool setting **—** Mom and Dad are the teachers, the kitchen becomes the lunch room, and the house, the yard, the nearby pond, and the garage are all used as classrooms. In Bean's depiction of homeschooling, every moment of the day becomes a chance to learn, from outdoor art classes to evening star-gazing to the "homework" of helping out with farm chores. Watercolor illustrations with loosely defined borders perfectly capture the jumbled chaos of a dual-purpose household, while pen-and-ink lines and plenty of white space

provide definition and space for viewers to take in the many details. In this home, towering piles of books, scattered papers, and canning jars share space with butterfly nets, chemistry beakers, and art supplies, reinforcing the family's philosophy that every experience has educational possibilities. The simple sentence structure and vocabulary make this a great choice for emerging readers, and the strong sense of place, anchoring the school experience to a family's beloved home while also opening it up to embrace the wider world, will resonate with young children just beginning to navigate the home/school divide. VERDICT Bean's introduction to a free-spirited yet structured homeschool lifestyle offers a warm and accessible perspective on an increasingly common educational choice rarely seen in children's books. A first purchase. *—Chelsea Couillard-Smith, Hennepin County Library, MN*

—"This is no ordinary back-to-school tale.*—* *—*USA Today*—* "A great choice for emerging readers, and the strong sense of place, anchoring the school experience to a family's beloved home while also opening it up to embrace the wider world, will resonate with young children just beginning to navigate the home/school divide.*—* *—*School Library Journal, starred review*—* "Homeschooling families rejoice! This warm, uplifting, and hilarious book will delight kids who wonder if other families live just like they do. My family laughed, nodded, and smiled all the way through*—* *—*from the first illustration to the last. Sure to become a classic on homeschoolers' bookshelves all over the world.*—* *—*Sarah Mackenzie, Creator, Read-Aloud Revival and author of *Teaching from Rest: A Homeschooler's Guide to Unshakable Peace**—* "Warmhearted . . . Capture[s] the coziness as well as the frenetic pace of the homeschooling day.*—* *—*The Horn Book*—* "The family from *Building Our House* returns, but this time their son tells readers all about life as a home-schooled kid . . . Home sweet school.*—* *—*Kirkus Reviews*—* "Humorous and informative . . . Bean's scribbly pen-and-ink style is perfectly suited for the liveliness of a home in which the living room is both a place to relax and a classroom, the kitchen is the cafeteria, and the family car is also the school bus.*—* *—*Publishers Weekly

This is an absolutely lovely and well depicted story about homeschooling! I am so very pleased to own this and cannot wait to share it with my children. I am confident they will love seeing their lives reflected so accurately and so well in this story...right down to the never ending messy house. The author is a homeschool graduate who beautifully recalls the joy of homeschooling while making sure to include some of the hardships (a tired (and sometimes grumpy) Mama for instance!). The story

explains how homeschooling is not so much about staying in our homes, but using the world as our classroom (and every room in our homes!). Instead of justifying homeschooling by portraying the negatives of public/private school, he effortlessly shows so many of the reasons so many of us homeschool. The illustrations are a little busy for my preference, but I think my kids will enjoy discovering "hidden" items in each page. I think this is an excellent addition to any homeschool family's library, as well as a potential great gift for grandparents and doubting relatives or friends. Thank you to this author...it is perfect!!

Jonathan Bean has done it! He captured the messy, joyful, sometimes tiring, colorful, adventure of homeschooling in this new arrival to my home-library. Upon opening our new book (with high-quality binding and paper, by the way), my oldest son and I giggled and grinned our way through dozens of close-to-home vignettes. Especially the spread that shows all the reasons Teacher Mom gets tired! We were delighted to look at this book alongside Bean's earlier book, *Building Our House*. Appropriate to its topic, the earlier book featured tidy, detailed illustrations of the technical steps for building a house by hand. This new book features more of the author/illustrator's cheerful ink drawings filled with colorful paint, but takes a more coloring-outside-the-lines, childlike, excited approach. There are so many details to explore with each reading. Homeschooling families will enjoy seeing bits and pieces of their world featured in a picture book. Those attending traditional schools will have a peek at homeschool life, but will also make connections with their own learning-life adventures!

This is a wonderful look at the normal life of a homeschooling family. The author humorously depicts the clutter, chaos, and adventure that occurs when school and home are seamlessly connected. My young kids enjoyed having a picture book depict a family so similar to ours. This will surely become a favorite for us. My one disappointment is about the physical book itself. The dust jacket was torn when it came in the mail, and upon holding the book I understood why. The paper used for the dust jacket is not glossy; it is soft and fragile and thin for a dust jacket. The pages of the book are similar - not glossy, crease very easily, and I worried my fingers would leave oil marks on them because of their porous texture. I'm not sure why this book was made this way, but I fear this copy won't survive to be the family classic it deserves to be.

I absolutely adore this book! My only criticism is that the illustrations are so messy, my boys had a hard time figuring out exactly what was going on in each scene. Also, to a child who has only ever

been homeschooled, the point-by-point comparisons to public school don't make much sense, but that's not a huge problem for bigger kids or kids who are regularly exposed to public school-attending friends. This is an excellent book other than those minor details. It's truly a lovesong to the messy, beautiful simplicity that is the homeschool lifestyle.

So lovely to have book about Homeschooling for the whole family to enjoy. Although a simple homeschool reflection, the illustrations add so much more. What a lovely tribute to the family, love, chaos, work and beauty of Homeschooling. Both mom and the kids can relate to the illustrations.

I love love this book. I have not yet started homeschooling my kids so i thought it would be nice showing them what homeschooling is like, they enjoyed the illustrations.

This is a nice book that shows how a home can also be used as a school (homeschool). The book shows several rooms in the home that are used for various home-activities, and also how they are used for a classroom. The pictures are detailed and colorful. A nice book for homeschool kids to have that helps them relate their home to a classroom.

fantastic book. after reading it my 4 yr old understands that school can be at home too. Before reading this I was having difficulty getting he to understand that school can happen wherever you learn, not just at the place where most other kids go.

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