



Family Sabbatical

Carol Ryrie Brink

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Professor Ridgeway is on sabbatical in the South of France—and the whole family is along for the adventure. Susan has brought her diary to document their vacation fun, but Dumpling isn't convinced that France can compete with their house with the tower back in Midwest City. She's brought along her doll, Irene, as her little piece of home. George is just happy to have some new terrain to search for rocks. As the Ridgeways settle in, they find out that a real, live princess is staying at their hotel. But who could she be? While they search for the princess, they also begin studying French with their stern tutor, Mademoiselle—but isn't it more fun teaching her some not-so-proper English? And as Halloween and Thanksgiving roll around, the Ridgeway children decide to show France a little bit of what these holidays mean back home in America—with some unexpected results! France will never be the same after the Ridgeways.

Family Sabbatical Details

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Author : Carol Ryrie Brink

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From Reader Review Family Sabbatical for online ebook

Ncengprf says

I read this book years ago and loved it. Afterward I wanted to read FAMILY GRANDSTAND and the librarians found a copy for me--possibly the first time I requested and received a particular book from a library. A few years ago I found a copy in the children's section of our local library and treated myself to a re-read, and I think I enjoyed it almost as much as I did when I was a pre-teen.

Betsy says

I can't think why it took me so long to track this down and read it after I enjoyed "Family Grandstand" so much, but I'm glad I did. I really liked it. In fact, I thought it was simply superb.

Brent Soderstrum says

The Ridgeway family goes to France as a result of their father's sabbatical as a college professor. Susan, George and Dumpling get to spend half a year in France. They start out in southern France with a tutor who is to help them learn the language. They teach her more English then they learn French. The family then moves to Paris for the last 3 months. They experience all the American holidays in France such as Halloween and Thanksgiving. There are things they miss about home but also things they enjoy about France.

Dumpling loses Irene down a deep hole in a French castle which is about the biggest issue faced by the Ridgeways. Nice clean fun book for kids 8-12 years of age.

Will Burpee says

I first read this when I was 10 years old, obviously a long time ago. I read this before finding the "prequel", "Family Grandstand", and like this one slightly better. Part of it is the more exotic setting of France. The adventures are entertaining and believable, and I learned a lot about the country from this book. It's also where I first learned what the word "sabbatical" means. One of my all-time favorite childrens' books, and one adults would like as well, I think. I'm only sorry Carol never wrote more about the Ridgeways.

Kay M says

This was one of my favorite books as a child. I loved it so much! My friend and I read it at the same time. We both sat together at one table in class and enjoyed comparing notes. We got in trouble so many times for talking and giggling over something that happened in Family Sabbatical. This book was a real joy to read!

Melissa says

"Suburp!" (As Susan would say in the book.) My favorite book as a kid was Brink's Baby Island, and I only just recently realized she had more. (Duh.) Thanks to the Baby Island fans who steered me true, this was full of wonderful moments. :)

Laurie says

We are reading this aloud to Iris at bedtime right now (October, 2009). Perfect fall read. Oh, man, do I love this book. (Matthew told Iris, to entice her into the book, that there's a part where Dumpling drops Irene into the oubliette. Now that they're traveling to Paris Iris is on pins and needles waiting for it.)

Nancy says

This book was as Susan would say, "Suburp!". I liked it even better than Family Grandstand. I wish there were more of this family's adventures. I really liked the characters and how they got along together. I recognized the "godmother" turned princess early on, but that didn't spoil the story at all and I don't think children would notice as I did. This would be a great one for our Vintage Book Circle if we could get enough copies. Thanks, Ginny for the recommendation.

Holly says

Charming. Not much plot, but the kids loved hearing read aloud.

Charla Virkler says

A delightful story! The kids and I loved hearing about what it's like to live in a different country for a year, learning the language and culture and trying to blend familiar customs with new experiences.

Gabrielle says

I had read "Baby Island" many years ago but hadn't realized that she had written anything else. This was cute. It is the story of an American family with three kids, Susan, George and Dumpling who go to France for six months because their parents are writing books. They spend part of the book in Cannes and then go to Paris.

For a book that is set in France there isn't much set up for that. I mean the family interacts with French people and have an unfortunate governess Mademoiselle but really the book could have been set in any country outside the US with a few minor changes. It is very much the story of the three children and their

adventures. Yes it does take place in the 1950s. The advantage of course is that since the author doesn't go into great details about France and the French she does manage to avoid offensive racial stereotypes. This is not always true in books of this time so that was quite nice.

Susann says

Can you believe I've never read this? So far, it's simply subrp. Update: just finished and thought it was cute. Not as good as Brink's TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE, but I had fun with it and probably would have enjoyed it even more when I was a kid. Bonus points for any book in which the characters make doll furniture.

Dianna says

This is a charming little book. The Ridgeway family takes a sabbatical year to spend in France, for Dad to study history and Mom to work on her latest novel. The three children keep busy in their attempts to learn French and in their more successful attempts to teach their governess colloquial English. They meet a princess, collect rocks, and get the measles.

There isn't much of a plot, but I loved this book anyway. The kids are fun and real, and there are so many funny moments.

Angie Reighard says

I received this book as a giveaway from Goodreads.

This was a cute story. It a funny and yet realistic story that many children can relate to. It's a little too advanced for small children to read themselves. Middle school children could probably read this on their own and have it keep their interest.

Chris says

I received this book as a First Reads giveaway.

I remember reading this book long ago as a kid. That book was old and battered, but I remember liking it very much. I had a few misty memories of events in the book, like Irene's adventure, and the measles. When I saw it bring offered as a giveaway, I just had to enter. I was thrilled to win a copy and to see if the story still held up, and it did. It is a charming story, and even though it takes place long ago, it has a timeless quality, and modern kids should still relate and enjoy the humor and the exotic locations.
