

“Mr. Bean’s Holiday” starring Rowan Atkinson, Max Baldry, Emma de Caunes, 2007, G, 90 minutes

Major themes:

- Going on holiday
- Vacation
- Being lost
- Journey
- Film
- Camera
- Fun
- Joy
- Misunderstandings
- Creativity
- Camaraderie
- Family

Major characters:

- Mr. Bean
- Stepan Dachevsky
- Emil Dachevsky
- Sabine
- Carson Clay

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Background info:

- Rowan Atkinson earned a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from The Queen's College at Oxford and briefly embarked in doctoral work before devoting his full attention to acting.
- The Mr. Bean TV sitcom (15 episodes) has been sold in 245 territories worldwide. It inspired an animated series and two feature films including this one. Mr. Bean also appeared in the opening ceremony for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.
- Mr. Bean lives in Flat 2, 12 Arbour Road, Highbury, London, England. His first name (he names himself "*Bean*" to others) and profession, if any, are never mentioned. Mr. Bean wears a brown tweed jacket, a white shirt, a thin red tie, brown trousers, black shoes and a black digital calculator watch. He occasionally changes his outfit to suit the scene he is in.
- Teddy doesn't appear at all in the film.
- The film's tagline is, "*One of these two has a brain the size of a peanut.*"
- The girl Lily who appears in the opening scene is Rowan Atkinson's daughter, Lily Atkinson.
- Mr. Bean's video camera is a Sony Handycam Wide LCD DCR-HC96E Memory Stick MiniDV camcorder with 3.0 mega pixels.
- After being dropped off at La Défense by the Parisian taxi by accident, Bean decides to walk to the Gare de Lyon in a straight line, following his compass. In real life, this is roughly a 2.5 hour (12 km) walk.
- The wonderful aria Mr. Bean pretends to sing in the market scene is "*O mio babbino caro*" ("*Oh my dear papa*") from the opera "*Gianni Schicchi*" by Giacomo Puccini.
- The red carpet scenes were filmed at the actual Cannes Film Festival.

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Scriptures:

Ecclesiastes 3:4 (NLT) – *“A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.”*

Psalms 68:6a (NLT) – *“God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.”*

Matthew 25:31-40 (NIV) – *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

James 1:27 (The Message) – *“Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.”*

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Discussion points:

1. What holiday would you like to win in a raffle?
2. What was your favorite scene in this film?
3. What do you think Carson Clay's film within this film ("*Playback Time*") means?
4. What is it about Mr. Bean that is so endearing?
5. Why do you think Mr. Bean's popularity seems to transcend culture all over the world?
6. One reviewer says that "*Bean is a 'role model' in the same way a 5-year-old might be: He is precocious, selfish and mischievous—but he also can be sweet and has moments in which he teaches those around him something about the simple joys of life and friendship.*" What have you learned from Mr. Bean?
7. Which supporting character did you like, and why?