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## Billy's Booger: A Memoir (sorta)

By Joyce, William.

Atheneum. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. From what might not sound like the most promising title (at least to grown-ups), William Joyce introduces readers 6 to 8 to his younger self Billy Joyce, a "most challenging student" (his principal's words) whose irrepressible imagination led to his becoming an Oscar and Emmy Awardwinning animator and creator of children's books. Specifically, 4th-grade Billy was inspired by a book-writing contest to imagine and illustrate the adventures of the titular character, a booger suddenly endowed with superpowers. That book appears inserted within this one, and though it earned young Billy no prizes, it soon became the most popular among all the contest entries. "Rendered in mixed media, Joyce's rich painterly spreads vividly convey small-town 1960s America (details such as Billy's mother's beehive hairdo are a nice touch). Joyce also visually emphasizes his own inability to fully conform with his more conventional community: Billy's fantastic imagination shows him taking out an impossibly huge stack of books from the library in order to derive inspiration for his story, while 'Billy's Booger,' tipped in to the center of the book and illustrated with childlike scrawls and bursting with zaniness, contrasts effectively with the cloyingly cute...



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