

The Summer With Dad

The Summer With Dad (Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, Oslo, Norway) is a weekly series for children ages 4-6. In this 6-minute episode, "A New Hairdo," we meet 5-year old Axel, who lives with his mother. Axel doesn't know his father very well. Together, Axel and his father go on a camping trip. On the ride to their destination, Axel and Dad have fun jamming to music on the car radio (cf. illustration 1). They arrive and set up their campsite (cf. illustration 2). Dad is shaving while Axel makes a sandwich. Axel is curious and he asks Dad if it hurts to shave. When Dad leaves to take a shower, Axel goes inside the camper and finds the electric clippers (cf. illustration 3). Axel begins to experiment with the clippers. He puts the clippers on his head and shaves a lock of hair. The lock of hair falls and lands on his sandwich. When Axel sees himself in the mirror, he realizes his mistake. Whoops! Axel hears dad whistling outside, so he sits down and puts on his cap (cf. illustration 4). At first, Dad doesn't notice hair on the floor (cf. illustration 5). Dad dries his own hair with a towel and applies hair wax. He offers some wax to Axel, but Axel refuses. Dad takes a bite of Axel's sandwich and gets hair in his mouth. Father and son exchange knowing looks. The moment of tension is released with Dad's laughter. Dad removes Axel's cap, and says, "Congratulations on your new hairdo!" Dad takes the clippers and fixes Axel's hair (cf. illustration 6). Then Dad invites Axel to cut his hair, too (cf. illustration 7). Through this experience the two gain a stronger bond. They leave the camper together sporting new haircuts (cf. illustration 8).

The Summer With Dad won the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014 award in the up to 6 fiction category.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS' OPINION

International experts shared their opinions about *The Summer With Dad* during the discussion sessions at the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014. Many experts expressed their appreciation of this program using words such as "perfect," "loved it," and "excellent." Many also said they experienced the same feelings while watching the program that were being depicted on screen. Some said they had similar experiences with haircuts when they were children. An expert from Egypt thought the program was more for parents than children. An expert from Hong Kong asked whether parents in Asian countries would approve of children using razors. This program was a highlight of the category for many.

"I felt very touched by the simple style of the story and the amazing acting. I haven't seen acting like that in a long time. It feels so real and was so simple. They built a lot of tension and the aftermath is so beautiful. I just loved it. I will give my heart to it." (male expert, Chile)

"I love this piece. I had the same sensation." (female expert, Brazil)

"I feel this is a difficult category to compare, but I very much like watching real people so I put my heart to *The Summer With Dad*. I loved it and I feel that I would watch in my country with my child and he would like it very much." (female expert, Norway)



Ill. 1: Dad and Axel enjoy music on the car radio



Ill. 2: At the campsite, Dad begins to shave while Axel makes a sandwich



Ill. 3: Axel experiments with the electric clippers while Dad takes a shower

Screenshots from *The Summer With Dad* © Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation



III. 4: Axel puts on his cap to cover his mistake

“I liked very much that the father was such a normal type....others are all very crazy or stupid....” (female expert, United Kingdom)

“It was the nicest father. All through the story he developed some sympathy and that was great.” (male expert, Germany)

“The little boy was a really good actor.” (female expert, Taiwan)

“The direction of the child acting is excellent. When he was nervous...they take it very delicately and you don’t see that very much....It was played well and directed very well.” (male expert, United Kingdom)



III. 5: At first, Dad doesn't notice locks of hair on the floor

“The boy is super honest and simple, but at the same time expressing so much. I think it was really well done to portray such a message in a powerful way. (female expert, Chile)

“I really liked the timing. It wasn’t rushed. They took the time with the children.” (female expert, Brazil)



III. 6: Instead of responding in anger, Dad helps Axel fix his hair

“It’s very honest and very real life and very funny.” (male expert, Mexico)

“I liked it also. It was a simple holiday.” (female expert, United States)

Elizabeth Spezia, PhD student, Southern Illinois University, USA



III. 7: Axel gets a chance to give Dad a haircut, too



III. 8: Dad carries Axel on his shoulders to celebrate their new haircuts

Screenshots from *The Summer With Dad* © Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation

Target Audience 8.29

Idea 8.37

Script 8.74

Realization 9.03

Average Score per Category by experts’ voters at PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014