

Phineas and Ferb

(How I Spent My Summer Vacation)

Created by Dan and Swampy
(Revised 5-2-07)

A lot of people complain about boredom, but who really does anything about it? Meet Phineas and Ferb, twelve-year old stepbrothers with too much time on their hands and too much chutzpah for their own good.

Summer vacation has one hundred and four days. That's a lot of time to kill, and these are just the guys to do it. In every episode, our heroes take on the challenge of making yet another mind-numbing rotation of the earth into something really special. Why be content playing video games or watching TV when, with just the right amount of bravado, you could become a jet pilot or an astronaut or create the world's largest Popsicle? Armed with only the sincere belief that it is possible, Phineas and Ferb accomplish the wildly improbable on a daily basis. One day they're building a full size rollercoaster in their back yard or capturing a Mummy at the local museum, the next, they might be scaling a mountain on a jet-powered skateboard or building a fifteen-foot robot to do their chores.

"Summer is short, you gotta make every day count!" this is the credo that Phineas and Ferb live by as they strive to make each and every day as spectacular as possible. The only fly in their ointment is their older sister, Candace. Spurred on by her jealousy of her brother's ability to get away with even the most outlandish undertakings, she makes it her own life's work to get them in trouble. All she wants is for Mom to catch them red-handed in whatever mess they've gotten into. Unfortunately for Candace, just like Big Bird and the Snuffleupagus, the evidence always seems to vanish just before anyone shows up to bear witness and she is left looking delusional.

For her part, Mom thinks Candace is a bit high strung, but she actually enjoys how creative and dramatic her daughter's nonsensical stories become.

Phineas and Ferb can't understand what all the fuss is about. They're just trying to do something special and live life to the fullest. They're not trying to hurt anyone or get anyone in trouble. When Candace gets worked into a lather over something they are doing, it only bewilders the boys.

On every adventure, Phineas and Ferb are accompanied by their pet Platypus, Perry. To the casual observer, Perry is a docile mindless family pet, but unbeknownst to everyone, including Phineas and Ferb, Perry has a secret life as a government agent. His missions take him away every episode to combat the evil

scientist Dr. Heinz Doofenshmirtz. As super villains go, Dr. Doofenshmirtz is sadly lacking in foresight and his elaborate plans for global domination are as inept as they are ineffectual.

While the boys are busy on whatever endeavor du jour occupies them and Candace is busy trying to take them down, Perry and Dr. Doofenshmirtz are battling elsewhere for the safety of the planet (which, truth be told, never really seems to be in any danger in the first place).

By the end of the episode these three storylines converge in some climactic and comical way. In the course of accomplishing his mission Perry inadvertently helps Phineas and Ferb and/or hinders Candace's plans to expose them. This he does usually just before saving the world and getting back to his cover identity as the boys' pet without anyone being the wiser.

The day ends with normalcy restored and the boys already planning their next day's adventure. Everything is as it was except Candace's frustration level has been ratcheted up yet another notch.

The Family

Phineas Flynn

Phineas is a precocious bundle of energy who's tolerance for sitting still is just a little thinner than his patience for the social echelon on which he finds himself, that of a nine year old boy. Smarter than most of the kids around him as well as some of the adults, Phineas is constantly trying to stave off boredom with one grandiose scheme or another. His greatest fear is having the sun go down on an uneventful summer day without doing something remarkable. He is Ferris Bueller and Bugs Bunny rolled into one. He has none of their sneakiness but he has that same the unshakeable belief that he can do whatever he puts his mind to. Sometimes this single-mindedness can make him a bit manic and get in his own way, but he usually gets back on track with a just little help from Ferb.

An encounter with Phineas usually leaves adults confused. It doesn't matter if he is masterminding the set up of an ostrich ranch or piloting a jet helicopter through the eye of a hurricane, adults in Phineas' adventures feel compelled to ask him, "Aren't you a little young to be doing this?" Phineas always replies in a flat, confident tone:

"Yes, Yes I am."

Phineas never does anything to intentionally ‘get’ Candace. He isn’t interested in ‘one-upping’ or making her, or anyone else, look bad. He wants to have a spectacular day or a memorable event and just can’t understand why Candace and other people in general don’t just get with the program. Though he doesn’t understand her, he loves his sister and only wishes that she would relax more and enjoy. If he thought it would be fun and exciting, he would happily use his boundless energies to support her and further her goals. Occasionally he does this causing Candace to rethink their relationship.

His Mom always tells him to stay out of trouble, but Phineas never thinks any of the outlandish things he does as “getting into trouble.” He is not trying to get away with something behind his mother’s back. He is just simply trying to stave off boredom in the most creative way possible. He loves his Mom and would be truly upset if he thought any of his ridiculous undertakings would meet with her disapproval. It’s just that they have never gotten into trouble before so he has no frame of reference. For him, “getting into trouble” would be things like “smoking,” or “knocking over a liquor store,” things he would NEVER do.

Phineas and Candace are full brother and sister, Linda is their real Mom and Lawrence is their step-father. We assume that their real father is no longer in the picture.

Ferb Fletcher

Ferb, also nine, is very loyal to his stepbrother Phineas and will always lend him a hand or follow him on any of his harebrained schemes, no matter where they might lead. He is Phineas’ right hand man, his gopher, his secretary, and his enforcer, whatever is called for by the job at hand.

Ferb is a bit of a ‘Radar O’Riley’ type who is often a half step ahead and able to get a jump on whatever Phineas needs next. His unquestioning allegiance to Phineas usually precludes him from speaking too much. Indeed Ferb will never have more than one line in any particular episode. Through the vast majority of their adventure he is a silent partner, Teller to Phineas’s Penn, Gromit to his Wallace. When Ferb does speak, it is usually no more than a sentence but it shows a greater understanding of the situation than his bug-eyed countenance would indicate.

Ferb also has no discernable facial reaction to most of what goes on. As Phineas says, "Ferb is more of a 'man of action'," He greets the scariest and most mundane happenings with the same blank wide-eyed expression allowing us the audience to believe whatever we want about his emotional state. The only time his expression changes at all is when he is joking with his Phineas at which point he will sometimes favor his stepbrother with a hint of a sly smile. . . but only just a hint.

While Phineas monopolizes the conversation, you get the feeling that he wouldn't be able to pull anything off without Ferb's constant assistance.

Ferb's wordlessness makes him the ideal vessel for purely physical humor. Though he is quite formidable with all manner of electronics and power tools in the grand scheme, he often has trouble with the more mundane activities within that scheme. When we see him during a project, hammering or using a wrench, he often gives the momentary impression of klutziness, but he is a get-back-on-the-horse kind of guy and he always gets the job done.

Candace and her need to stop Phineas, (Ferb doesn't take anything Candace does as being against him) just confuses and bewilders him. When confronted with one of her rants, he usually just gives a shrug before getting on with the job at hand.

Ferb is Phineas and Candace's stepbrother and Lawrence is his real father, Linda is his stepmother. We assume that his real mother is no longer in the picture.

(Interestingly, Ferb's only interest in girls in the series is vaguely apparent in his occasional encounter with Vanessa, the daughter of the villain of our series.)

Candace Flynn

Phineas' older sister (15 years old) is thoroughly embarrassed by her brother's antics but even more irritated by the fact that he seems to always get away with it. Though what her brothers do almost never affects her negatively, she still feels the need to stop them because she believes she would get in to trouble were she to do the same thing, and that's just not fair. Candace has made it her personal mission to bring him down. Think of her as Jennifer Grey's

character from Ferris Bueller, but on steroids.

Surreptitiously, she follows the boys on their adventures trying to sabotage their plans. Needless to say her plans to ruin Phineas always end up badly for her and worse, sometimes inadvertently help Phineas. This only serves to infuriate her more. Her desire to get Phineas and Ferb in trouble often undermines her ability to achieve her own goals and in that sense, she is her own worst enemy. Much like the coyote, her downfall is usually brought on by her own single-minded pursuit of Phineas and Ferb.

Candace has a fierce crush on Jeremy (the boy who works at the Mr. Slushee Dawg) but every time she runs into him in a social setting, she keeps getting distracted by her brothers' antics and she ends up blowing yet another opportunity. Throughout the series, though, inch by agonizing inch, she will get closer to an actual date with Jeremy. All these little half conversations and interrupted flirtations will accumulate into something that is not quite a relationship, but not simply an acquaintance either. *With any luck, several seasons in, we will have a Valentine's Day episode in which Candace and Jeremy actually go on a full fledged date. Phineas and Ferb, of course, will be up to something that will distract Candace, but Jeremy will be able to calm her down enough so that the outing is not an entire bust, and Candace will end a day with a smile.*

Candace wants to be famous. She does have a great singing voice and always does well in drama class, (drama being something she is used to). She loves the spotlight and part of her eternal frustration with Phineas is his seemingly effortless ability to bask in its glow. She will often get an opportunity to further her dramatic or musical ambitions only to be thwarted, again, by her uncontrollable obsession with trying to bring her brothers down. The sad fact of Candace's existence is that if she would just let go of her preoccupation with Phineas and Ferb's antics, the rest of her life would probably fall into place just fine.

Candace is a typical teen-age girl in many respects. She loves shopping at the mall, pop stars, the telephone and her friends. She's a fairly popular girl at school and when she's not trying to bring her brother's down, she is usually socializing or practicing her music.

As difficult as Candace can be, she would never use her status as

‘Mom’s real daughter’ against Ferb. Phineas makes her crazy, but she doesn’t really see Ferb in the same light.

Mom- Linda Flynn-Fletcher

Born in the heartland of America, Linda is a stay-at-home mom with a wealth of patience and a dry sense of humor. Her friends describe her as a dedicated and insightful parent and a warm and perceptive person. She believes in limits but always gives the kids a bit of free reign to express themselves. Candace’s constant need to get her to see whatever it is that the boys are up to this time will occasionally take her to the brink of breaking, but most of the time she is simply amused with the creativity evident in the outlandish claims that her daughter makes. Deep inside she is proud of the apparent wealth of her daughter’s imagination and just wishes she would just get out of this phase! She always manages to keep it together and remain understanding and supportive. She is the straight-man for Candace. Her responses to Candace's histrionics are often deadpan and mildly sarcastic but this is never meant in a mean way. It has a constant subtext of “look how creative my daughter is.” Interestingly, Mom plays keyboard and guitar in a local jazz group with a few of the other neighborhood Moms.

Dad –Lawrence Fletcher

Lawrence (‘Lol’ to his friends and family) was born in England and now lives in the states and works as an antiques dealer. He has a great antiques shop in town and also spends a fair amount of time traveling around the world. He is the natural father of Ferb and the adopted stepfather of Candace and Phineas, however all the kids call him “Dad,” Although, if talking to a third party about him, they will often identify him as “my stepdad.” His first wife is no longer in the picture. Those who know him best describe him as a bit of an eccentric and a kind, loving and dedicated father and husband. He has a great sense of humor and often sends postcards, and odd gifts and trinkets to his kids. His home, and especially his garage and sheds, are decorated with fun, bizarre and interesting knick-knacks, artifacts, mementos, curio and books. He is the only parent that ever sees any of what Phineas and Ferb are doing and he is always very impressed. He will then check with Mom to see if its ok but she always misunderstands what he asks her and gives her distracted approval, and so he figures if it is ok with mom...

The Grandparents:

Clyde and Betty-Jo Flynn

Linda's parents, (Phineas and Candace's grandparents by birth) are very Americana. He's a retired musician and she is a retired teacher. They spend their time either at their camp in the woods by Bigfoot Lake, or take day trips to places like Vegas and Graceland in their deluxe motor home. They are both loving, down to earth, good-hearted folk who get along well with the kids. Both kids at heart, Clyde and Betty-Jo are sometimes mischievous, and are known for playing crazy practical jokes.

Reg and Winnie Fletcher

Lawrence's parents, (Ferb's grandparents by birth) live in a converted mill in Scotland. Winnie is kindly and loving, and Reg is, well, a tad eccentric. Reg's communication is often hard to understand and is peppered with barely comprehensible grunts and chortles. Winnie and Reg occasionally visit the family, we see that Reg and Ferb have a bond, as they are both "men of few words." Interestingly, Reg was an Evil Kneivel-type daredevil in his youth known as "The Flying Fishmonger" (after his father who used to sell fish.) Winnie is patient with Reg's eccentricities, adores cooking, medieval heraldry and, most of all, her beloved grandchildren.

We don't see much of either set of Grandparents, but we will bring them in for special occasions.

Perry's Secret World

Perry the Platypus AKA "Agent P."

Phineas and Ferb never go anywhere without their pet platypus, Perry. Perry seems to be a nice enough pet; he just doesn't seem to do much. Whenever the boys try to train him to fetch or roll over, he just gives them a blank stare and the weird purring chirping noise that is the only sound he can make. Appearances can be deceiving, though.

Periodically the boys will lose track of their four-legged waddling companion and wonder aloud: "Where is Perry, anyway?" It's a more complicated question than it sounds.

You see, the mild-mannered-brainless-pet thing is simply an act, a cover identity if you will. Because when Phineas and Ferb aren't looking, Perry pops onto his back feet, checks in with his superior

via videophone and is off on another heart-stopping adventure. You see Perry is no ordinary platypus. He is in reality a super-secret agent that makes James Bond look like a rank amateur. Loaded with every conceivable gadget (and yet, inexplicably, no pockets) Perry does battle with Dr. Heinz Doofenshmirtz, an evil genius bent on mayhem and destruction. Strangely, the evil plans of Perry's arch nemesis always seem to center around whatever locale Phineas and Ferb find themselves in at the moment. Coincidence? We'll find out, but in the mean time it makes Perry's secret identity that much harder to keep from his human companions.

Perry has a secret hideout under Phineas and Ferb's home. A secret elevator whisks him down into the "Platypus Cave." There he can communicate with his superiors to receive his mission parameters and choose from a variety of different gadgets and vehicles to help him accomplish these missions.

Whenever the boys have Perry in another location at a time of need we discover that there are a seemingly endless series of tunnels and pneumatic tubes with entry points all over the city that exist solely for the purpose of getting Perry to his secret underground headquarters. He will simply step into the back of a mail box or lift up a trash can and suddenly he is whisked away to his secret hideout under the house.

Dr. Heinz Doofenshmirtz

An evil genius bent on world domination or at least absurd mayhem, and the bane of Perry's existence. Nicknamed "Dr. D", his scrambled evil plots often leave the viewer thinking, "Why would he want to do that? What could he possibly have to gain?"

Heinz is basically an evil genius with very poor planning skills. His real birthplace we may never know, his flashbacks to his youth can often be contradictory and bizarre and he adopted the odd, Germanesque accent in his college years to gain credibility with his evil-genius peers. His life is a series of poorly thought-out but grandiose schemes. His wild enthusiasm causes him to leap long before he looks and just "cross that bridge when he comes to it." Sadly the devices he constructs are usually responsible for inadvertently destroying that proverbial bridge with him on it. But he is at least lucky enough to know that 'He who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day'. Deep down, more than anything else, he would

love to make Mama Doofenshmirtz proud of her little boy one day.

Major Monogram

Perry's superior officer at the SSSN (Super Secret Spy Network), the top-secret organization to which Perry belongs. Every week he appears via the computer link in Perry's secret lair to brief the platypus about his new mission to defeat the evil Dr. Doofenshmirtz. Very commanding and reassuring, but you still get the impression from him that, like the good Doctor D., he doesn't have complete command of the facts and is often just making it up as he goes along. He has complete faith in Perry and although very brusque and officious on the outside, deep down he cares for Perry and his host family very deeply. The only person he loses patience with is his nerdy assistant Karl. Usually, however, speaks with an authoritative, trustworthy and reassuring voice a la Walter Cronkite.

Karl the Intern

Monogram's nebbish assistant, his techie and occasional door mat. Karl is a Woody Allen-type who runs Technical Operations for their secret headquarters. A shy, self-effacing geek, Karl has never had a girlfriend and suffers from a chin phobia. ("Don't look at my chin!") He likes comic books, red licorice, and as a trivia buff, can recite every line spoken by Erkel on "Family Matters."

Vanessa Doofenshmirtz

The sarcastic, only daughter of our show's evil genius. Vanessa loves her Dad, but also knows that sometimes, well, he's an idiot. When her parents divorced, she went to live with her Mom (Charlene) in Danville, but occasionally visits her Dad and reluctantly acts as his "evil assistant." Interestingly, her Mom doesn't believe Vanessa's claims that her Dad is evil, which drives Vanessa crazy.

Charlene Doofenshmirtz

Vanessa's Mom and Heinz's ex-wife. Charlene is a down-to-earth housewife who loves her daughter and still has a vague fondness for her eccentric "ex." Charlene, however, has no idea that Heinz is engaged in "evil" activities. Interestingly, the Vanessa/Charlene relationships mirrors that of Candace and Mom: Charlene thinks that Vanessa's claims about Heinz building evil contraptions are the result of her daughter's overactive teenage imagination.

Friends and Acquaintances:

Isabella Garcia-Shapiro

She is the too-cute-for-words little girl from down the street who has a serious crush on Phineas. Second generation Mexican American, she's always polite and well behaved to everyone she meets and as such, parents, teachers, parents, and pretty much any living adult just love her. This can be a valuable asset to the boys. She loves all the things that girls do, horses, puppies, kitties, boy bands, flowers and the like. She's very down to earth and sensible but would gladly follow Phineas anywhere, regardless of the risk, as long as he assures her that it is not "kinda impossible."

Though very girly-girl on the outside, she is actually quite formidable when it comes to getting into the fray and getting her hands dirty (figuratively of course, dirt doesn't actually stick to Isabella). She will often aid the boys in their grand schemes by organizing her entire Girl Guide Scout troop to help out in some way that is completely incongruous to how cute and feminine, they all are. Within this group she is the natural leader but maintains a genuine sweetness and always praises and encourages rather than ordering anyone around. Very effective in her own right, Isabella is self motivating and will take the initiative on many occasions to provide some integral part for the boy's projects. If there is some angle that Phineas and Ferb are not taking into account, she will cover it.

Sadly, Phineas remains completely oblivious to Isabella's affection. No matter how hard she lays it on, he just doesn't get the hint. Although, we suspect that by the time they are in High School, Phineas will probably be pursuing Isabella relentlessly, for the time being, he just doesn't think of girls that way.

Through the course of the series, we watch Isabella's unrequited affection for Phineas grow. By the end of the season, Isabella will occasionally mistake an offhand remark for reciprocation on Phineas' part. When she realizes her error she is momentarily saddened but still looks at the object of her affection through a starry haze. In moments like this Isabella will sometimes confide in Ferb who is, by his very silent nature, a good listener. And on these

occasions Ferb will use his one line per episode to offer her some heartfelt words of advice or encouragement.

Baljeet

Baljeet is an exchange-student who has recently moved to America from Sri Lanka. He is the same age as Phineas and Ferb. He's curious, polite but not afraid to speak up and even take action when the situation calls for it. He is a little uncomfortable with the whole 'Summer Vacation' concept. He is used to life in a society where the focus is much more on being studious and diligent. He's trying to get into the way of life in his new home and relying on Phineas and Ferb to get him 'clued in'.

But above all, Baljeet is studious and, unlike most of the other kids, LOVES doing homework, and although he's an "A" student, he takes summer just for the joy of doing homework!

Buford Van Stom

Every neighborhood has a bully and Buford is the designated one in this community. He's a stocky little tank of a boy with little brains but brawn out the wazoo. Lucky for Phineas, he has almost no attention span and is easily outwitted by involving him in something fun thus distracting him from his original malicious intent. Phineas' philosophy on Buford is that he only bullies because he's bored, if you give him something to do he'll leave you alone.

Django Brown

Django is the youngest child of the hippie couple down the street. His hair is long and he wears tie-dye t-shirts, patchwork jeans and a headband and can quote Bob Dylan. He can be relied upon for a philosophical approach to anything and is usually involved with saving something, (the earth, the Whales, cans and paper, the common squirrel, slugs, etc.). His main concern is for the common good and the spiritual well being of everyone and everything around him. He's a socialist living in a capitalist world.

The Fireside Girls

This group of six young girls are Isabella's best friends, and serve our series as Isabella's lively assistants. Always seen wearing their Fireside Girls uniforms (a la Girl Scouts), the Fireside Girls can be experts at almost anything with the help of their Fireside Manual. (For example, the Fireside Girls can be a Nascar-style pit-crew, can

man a Nasa-like Mission Control, and be back-up singers in a rock band.)

Candace's Friends:

Stacy Hirano

A second generation Japanese American, Stacy is Candace's best friend and confidant. She's always at the Mall or on the Phone. She takes figure skating lessons and imagines herself to be the next Olympic gold medalist. She's incredibly trendy and knows what's hot and what's not at any given minute. Stacy can usually be counted on to aid, abet and encourage Candace's maniacal quest to get her brothers caught.

Jeremy

He's the cute guy who works at Mr. Slushy Dawg. Candace thinks he's sooooo hunky! Truth be known, he thinks Candace is cute too. The problem is, whenever they run into each other she often ends up running off at a moment's notice to try to stop her little brothers from doing some odd activity. This leaves him a bit confused and unsure of her affection. He also just doesn't understand her beef with the boys because he actually thinks Phineas and Ferb are pretty cool kids, (and man, does that irk Candace to no end). By the end of the first season, Candace and Jeremy will go on their first date.

Jenny Marsh

Candace's spacey but good-natured friend (Django's big sister). A bit New Agey, Jenny has a calming influence on Candace, usually in contrast to Stacy. She loves "saving" things, (the earth, the Whales, recycled cans and paper, squirrels, slugs, etc.) Jenny advocates a 'live and let live' approach to dealing with Candace's brothers... Sadly, it is advice that usually falls on deaf ears.

Little Suzy Johnson

While not actually Candace's "friend", Little Suzy (let's say she's 6) is Jeremy's younger sister. She is a precocious little girl who looks and acts overly sweet, but is actually psychotically obsessive about being Jeremy's "Number 1 little girl!" Suzy will do anything to stop Jeremy from being attentive to other girls. Um, Candace, for example...

Their Environment

The Fletcher House

They live in a 1950's style two-story single-family dwelling featuring four bedrooms, two and a half baths, a basement and an attic. It should have an eccentric and eclectic decor that reflects Mom's love of art and design as well as Dad's love of unusual objects and his extensive travels. But it is not so cluttered or quirky as to call attention to itself.

Phin and Ferb share a room and Candace has her own. The fourth bedroom is the art/music/craft room. Dad's office is above the two-car garage. The yard is large with enough room for a good-sized tree as well as plenty of room for Phin and Ferb to work on whatever they need to be working on.

The Neighborhood

It's your typical suburb of almost any major city in America. It has local shops close by, a good-sized supermarket and a mall all within bicycling distance. Not far from the house are some woods with a creek and enough vacant lots for the kids to explore. There are apartment buildings close by as well as an exclusive housing development that went up not too long ago. The local park has all of the fields, basketball courts, baseball diamonds and swimming facilities that you would expect to find in any major suburb. They are not more than a couple hour's drive from the ocean.

We need to have the city located in a place that gets all four seasons although nothing too extreme in any of them. Even though we are mostly seeing them in the summer, we need to have the opportunity to have any weather that we might need available to us.

BG Style

The backgrounds should never be so cartoony in design or color as to take us out of the show or remind us that we are watching a cartoon. The boys are going to be doing some pretty colossal things, and that will have more impact the more real the world feels to us. Occasionally for comic impact we will use photos or live action stock footage for the backgrounds, but only for specific effect.

