



*What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* Directed by Lasse Hallströme  
Reviewed by Ariella



*What's Eating Gilbert Grape* is not part of a series of movies.

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

*What's Eating Gilbert's Grape* is about a young man named Gilbert who lives in a small Midwestern town and carries the responsibility of caring for his family, including his younger brother with special needs and his mother, who is confined to their house. As he takes care of his family, Gilbert finds himself in an internal struggle between following his own personal dreams and his loyalty to his family. The movie explores themes of family, sacrifice, and self-discovery.

### **What drew you to this movie?**

The heartfelt portrayal of family and relationships is what mainly drew me in. The setting being in a small town somewhat added to what drew me in because of how large the conflicts were and how the town reacted to these conflicts. The balance of humor and tragedy keeps viewers engaged and invested in the character's journey.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously watched or read?**

*What's Eating Gilbert's Grape* reminds me of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Both movies are heartfelt dramas that look deeply into family dynamics and personal growth. It also shares some similarities to "Little Miss Sunshine" with its focus on unique characters navigating through life and its challenges.

### **To whom would you recommend this movie?**

*What's Eating Gilbert Grape* would appeal to someone who enjoys reflective and character-driven stories that dive deep into the everyday struggles of life with compassion. Anyone who enjoys indie dramas and slice-of-life films will enjoy the thoughtful pacing and complex, layered characters. Additionally, anyone who enjoys films with emotional depth and focus on family and relationships may find this film very moving.

**Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

I would highly recommend this movie because it offers a touching and insightful look into the challenges and beauty of family bonds and personal growth. The characters are relatable and human, making it very easy for the audience to put themselves in their shoes and empathize with their experiences and find some meaning in their journeys. The approach to portraying life's ups and downs leaves a large impact and encourages viewers to reflect on their own relationships and personal growth.

**Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

This movie is an amazing example of drama that balances moments of joy with themes of responsibility and sacrifice. The performances and script create such a powerful and emotional experience for viewers. Overall, it is a beautiful story that reminds everyone of the importance of compassion, resilience, and strength found within a family.