

What's Eating Gilbert Grape? (12)

On 11th February, 8 members enjoyed the 1993 Oscar nominated What's Eating Gilbert Grape?

The coming of age movie stars a young Johnny Depp as Gilbert, together with an even younger Leonardo Di Caprio as his autistic brother Arnie. Living on a homestead with the rest of their family (two sisters and a vastly obese mother), Gilbert has to maintain the farmstead and look after his brother (who is just about to turn 18), whilst working at the local food store. Gilbert's life is one huge bore, with his only excitement being an affair with an older married woman (played by Mary Steenburgen). This all changes when a beautiful young girl called Becky (Juliette Lewis) arrives in Endora and Gilbert finds new meaning in life.

Brilliantly acted by all the cast, the standout performers are undoubtedly Depp and - in his first major role - Di Caprio, who particularly catches the nuances of the neuro diverse Arnie and was deservedly Oscar nominated for Best Supporting Actor (which he lost out to Tommy Lee Jones for *The Fugitive*). Although there are a couple of minor plot holes, especially in the last few minutes of the film, it was genuinely moving and a real pleasure to watch.