

Frequent Reader Questions

Robert Wadlow: The Unique Life of the Boy Who Became the World's Tallest Man

Writing non-fiction for young readers can mean leaving some interesting facts out to keep a tight focus in the story and meet length requirements. I know that can feel frustrating to some readers!

Here are answers to some of the questions I've received from readers of my biography, *Robert Wadlow: The Unique Life of the Boy Who Became the World's Tallest Man*. Some background on Robert has been difficult to find because his family was very protective of him, destroying most of his belongings and much information after his death. Have a question you haven't found answered yet? Contact me through my website and we'll try to research it!

Q. How did Robert get around?

Robert got around by normal means—walking, car, and airplane. But as he got much larger, they had to modify the seats so he could fit comfortably. There's a picture of him in the back seat of a car in the book and explanation that his dad would remove the front passenger seat so he could stretch out his legs. And as he grew extra large, walking became harder. He had to take it slow and use a cane.

Q. Did Robert get teased a lot?

There's no evidence in any of the background materials about Robert that other kids regularly made fun of him. All background suggests that the teachers and kids and most people in his hometown were very supportive and protective of him and really liked him as a person. I do mention in the book that he sometimes dealt with rude behavior as he traveled, apparently from grown-ups. He was definitely a source of curiosity and people sometimes said or did inappropriate things like pinching his legs to see if he was on stilts.

Q. How much did Robert eat?

Apparently Robert did have a healthy appetite and required more calories per day than others his age as his body rapidly grew.

Q. Did his parents have to fix their home because of his size?

I did not find information that his family modified the inside of their home, although Robert did acquire some special furniture such as his special-sized chair. As he got past normal height for grown-ups, Robert had to duck in and out of doorways. His parents were planning to build a new home that would better accommodate his size but that did not occur.

Q. How tall would Robert have grown if he didn't die as a young man?

Robert was still growing at the time of his death and the doctors don't know how much more he would have grown because they didn't have experience with anyone else growing like this. It's unlikely he would have lived to old age because the growth was taking such a toll on his body, but no one knows for sure.