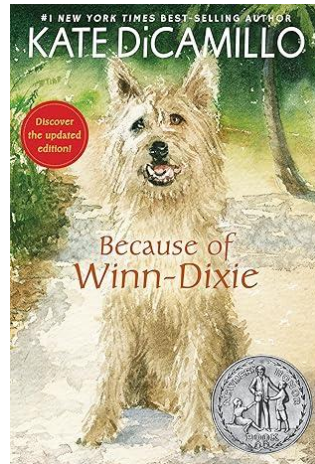


# Because of Winn Dixie

by Kate DiCamillo

## Book Discussion and Activities



### Discussion Questions:

1. How does Opal introduce herself in the beginning of the book? What do you learn about her and her personality from this introduction?
2. How would you describe Opal's relationship with her father? Why does she refer to him as the preacher?
3. What makes Winn-Dixie so lovable? He is a dirty, smelly stray dog, yet Opal loves him with all her heart at once. Why?
4. Opal's father does not want to keep Winn-Dixie at first; why does he change his mind?
5. Discuss the ten things that Opal learns about her mother. Does it help explain why she left?
6. Miss Fanny Block claims to have chased away a bear by throwing a book at him; do you believe this could happen? Why?
7. How does Opal's friendship with Winn-Dixie change her other relationships?
8. What is the Littmus Lozenge and why does it taste different to each character?
9. Why is the book's title Because of Winn-Dixie? Is it a good title? What would you title it?
10. This book has a rich cast of unique characters, tell us who your favorite character is and why?

## **Extension Activities:**

1. Winn-Dixie is afraid of thunderstorms and runs away during one. Can you make a missing dog poster for Winn-Dixie? Draw his picture and list unique things you know about him to help find Winn-Dixie.
2. Create a handbook for Opal on how to care for dogs. Find some books about dog care, use internet resources, or use your own experiences to come up with some helpful tips on how to care for a dog.
3. Create a map for Naomi, Florida. Think about all the places Opal and Winn-Dixie visited and place them on a map. Where would the library be located? What about the Open Arms Baptist Church?

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