

CCSS ELA Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening

Written By  
Kate DiCamillo

# Because of Winn-Dixie

Interactive Layered Flip Book



Study Guide Answers

Chapter 1-5

1. How does Opal know Winn-Dixie is the best dog?  
Opal knows Winn-Dixie from going to the dog pound. The large and mean dog had found his way into the grocery store. Opal was helping to return goods to shelves. To save the dog, Opal was asked to take care of the dog. Opal knew Winn-Dixie was the best dog because he was friendly, happy, and loved to play.

2. What does Winn-Dixie do for Opal?  
Opal gets a job at the grocery store. Winn-Dixie goes to work with her and helps her. She also becomes her best friend.

3. How does Opal know about her father's life?  
A new character that Opal meets is her father. He tells her that he was in the "Duke" and that he was a very good person. He was a very good person because he was kind and helpful.

Chapter 6-10

1. How does Opal know that her father is a good person?  
Opal knows that her father is a good person because he was kind and helpful. He was a very good person because he was kind and helpful.

2. How does Opal know that her father is a good person?  
Opal knows that her father is a good person because he was kind and helpful. He was a very good person because he was kind and helpful.

3. How does Opal know that her father is a good person?  
Opal knows that her father is a good person because he was kind and helpful. He was a very good person because he was kind and helpful.

Plot Diagram Answer Key

Rising Action

- Opal develops a summer routine with Winn-Dixie
- Opal meets Gloria Dump and they develop a great friendship
- Opal gets a job at the grocery store and gets invited to a party
- Opal makes friends with Miss Franny Block

Climax

They have a party at Gloria Dump's house and Winn-Dixie gets lost. They spend hours looking for him.

Falling Action

Winn-Dixie is found. The party is happy and resumed.

Resolution

Opal finds Winn-Dixie. Opal and her father are finally together.

Opal vs. her given happiness

Protagonist vs. Antagonist

Characters Answer Key

Who?	I know this character is...
Opal	The main character. She is a young girl and is very curious about her mother. Her and her father have recently moved to a small town where she lives with her. She has a best friend named Winn-Dixie and she meets other new friends.
The Preacher	Opal's father who is a very religious man. He is always trying to lead his family and once wanting to come out into the real world, most likely because he was sad to leave his mother, whom he loved so much.
Winn-Dixie	An old scruffy dog that Opal finds in the "Duke Mart" who grows on Opal and has a very big heart. He also becomes friends with everyone he encounters.
Gloria Dump	A blind recurring character with a white cane in her hand that has been helping Opal. In which she describes the general of all the things she has done. She is a very good person and she is always there for Opal, but once you get to know her, as Opal did, she is a very sweet person.
Miss Franny Block	An older woman who runs the Herman W. Block Memorial Library who Opal becomes friends with and she tells her many funny stories.
Otis	Shy ex-combat with a passion for music.
Sweetie Pie	A girl who is a friend of Opal's.

With Answer keys!

...produced to be shunned or mocked.

...learns facts about the mother who attributes all the turn of events to

...befriending a scruffy dog. Yes, it's all because of Winn-Dixie.

## Because of Winn-Dixie and Kate DiCamillo Vocabulary

Themes: Loneliness, Isolation, and Friendship

Chapters 1-10

Chapters 11-20

Chapters 21-26

Plot Diagram

Characters

What is a theme? - the moral, lesson, or message that the writer wants the reader to understand from the story. Some stories have themes and some do not.

Three of the themes have been provided for you below. Provide the page numbers where you find supportive evidence.

Loneliness, Isolation, and Friendship

Final Open response question

After the party, Opal goes to Gloria's mistake tree and tells her mother she won't miss her as much because her heart feels full. How has Opal's life changed to make her feel this way? Include specific details from the story in your response.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Themes: Loneliness, Isolation, and Friendship

Directions: As you read *Because of Winn-Dixie*

Chapters 1-3

1. produce - \_\_\_\_\_

2. the pound - \_\_\_\_\_

3. stray - \_\_\_\_\_

4. exception - \_\_\_\_\_

5. missionary - \_\_\_\_\_

6. orphans - \_\_\_\_\_

Chapters 4-6

7. constellations - \_\_\_\_\_

8. memorize - \_\_\_\_\_

9. alcoholism - \_\_\_\_\_

10. applauded - \_\_\_\_\_

11. pews - \_\_\_\_\_



About the Author: Kate DiCamillo was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1964. She moved with her family to Clermont, Florida when she was five years old for health reasons.

She moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota when she was thirty years old and began working in a book warehouse. She wrote the book *"Because of Winn-Dixie,"* because she was homesick for Florida.

Kate DiCamillo writes both children and adult books. As she herself puts it, "I like to think of myself as a storyteller". ([www.katedicamillo.com](http://www.katedicamillo.com))

About the Novel Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni (known as Opal) and her preacher father have just moved to a new town in Florida. This is where Opal connects with a mangy looking stray dog that she decides to name Winn-Dixie. It is through her eyes and heart that we are introduced to a community of interesting characters that would otherwise be shunned or mocked.

Throughout the story, Opal discovers things about herself and learns facts about the mother who abandoned her before she even got to know her. And she attributes all the turn of events to befriending a scruffy dog. Yes, it's all because of Winn-Dixie.

Because of Winn-Dixie and Kate DiCamillo

## Vocabulary

Chapters 1-5

1. How does Opal rescue Winn-Dixie in the first chapter?

2. What characteristics does Opal like about Winn-Dixie?

3. How does Opal feel about her father? Why?

4. Why does Opal's father agree to let her keep Winn-Dixie?

5. What does Opal do to Winn-Dixie to try to improve his life?

6. Why do you think Opal's mother left her and the preacher?

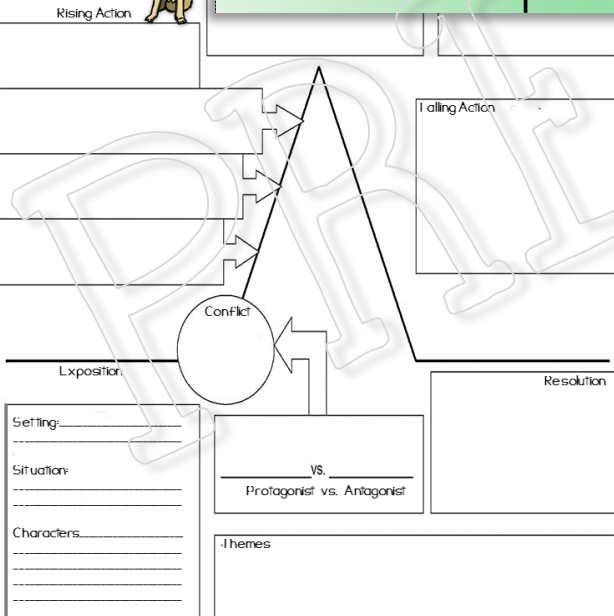
7. Why does the preacher allow Winn-Dixie to go to church?

8. What does Opal pray for in church at the end of Chapter 5?

**\*13 pages\***

## Chapters 1-10

Plot Diagram



## Plot Diagram

## Chapters 21-26

Characters

I know this character is...

Miss Franny Block

Winn-Dixie

Gloria Dump

Miss Franny Block

Otis

Sweetie Pie Thomas

Dunlap and Stevie Dewberry

Mama

## Characters

# ★ Answer Keys for everything ★

## Study Guide Answers

### Chapters 1 – 5

- How does Opal rescue Winn-Dixie in the first chapter?  
Opal rescues Winn-Dixie from going to the local pound. The large and messy dog had found his way into the grocery store. Opal was shopping in, causing quite a ruckus. To save the dog from being sent away by the owner and employees, Opal claims the dog as her own. She considers this decision to be incredibly lucky.
- What characteristics does Opal like about Winn-Dixie?  
Opal enjoys the fact that Winn-Dixie likes to smile a lot and wag his tail. She also likes his sense of humor, pg. 12
- How does Opal feel about her father? Why?  
Opal understands that her father truly is a good man, yet she feels because he spends most of his time preaching, or devoting his life to the preacher in her mind. She also thinks of her father as a turtle who sheltered from the world. pgs. 11-12 and 16
- Why does Opal's father agree to let her keep Winn-Dixie?  
Opal's father agrees to let her keep Winn-Dixie because of the dog. This provokes happiness within the preacher and causes him to "clearly see the dog's fragile health state, and titles him as a "less throw the dog back into the streets, for fear of the dog's death."
- What does Opal do to Winn-Dixie to try to improve his appearance?  
Opal washes and brushes Winn-Dixie to clean his coat of fur and wash. Opal even used her own hair brush to brush out the matted fur.
- Why do you think Opal's mother left her and the preacher?  
Opal's mother might have left Opal and the preacher on account of the wife of a preacher, pg. 28 (answers may vary)
- Why does the preacher allow Winn-Dixie to go to church?  
The preacher allows Winn-Dixie to go to church because Winn-Dixie's presence creates a constant noise created when the preacher and Opal go to church. pgs. 31-32
- What does Opal pray for in church at the end of Chapter 5?  
At the end of church, Opal prayed for her mama to come home, how she was lonely in Naomi, and how she wished for friends and his well-being in the outside world. pgs. 38-39

### Chapter 6 – 10

- Why does Miss Franny Block finally allow Winn-Dixie into the house?  
Opal was set on convincing Miss Franny to allow Winn-Dixie into the house with good manners, yet before Miss Franny could utter a yes or no, she was already gone. pgs. 43-44
- How did Miss Franny obtain the Herman W. Block Memorial Library?  
Miss Franny obtained the Herman W. Block Memorial Library. The Miss Franny asked her father for a library for her birthday. That's why she has the library. pgs. 45-46
- What does Opal promise to do so that she can earn Winn-Dixie?  
Opal promises to work at the local pet store, Gertrude's Pets, in order to earn money for Winn-Dixie. pgs. 52-57
- Why is Opal so happy at the end of Chapter 6?  
At the end of Chapter 6, Opal feels happy. She expresses this emotion to her mother, Miss Franny, a job, a dog, and she is invited to a party, and she is invited to her first party in Naomi. Sweetie Pie Thomas invites Opal to her birthday party, celebrating her birthday. pgs. 58-61
- Why doesn't Opal like Stevie and Dunlap Dewberry?  
Opal doesn't like Stevie and Dunlap Dewberry because they talk about her when she is around her. pgs. 60-61

## Study Guide Answers

- Why did Otis go to jail? Otis had gone to jail to stop, but he didn't. Also, when the police came, he was arrested.
- Why does Gloria Dump make Opal invite Stevie and Dunlap Dewberry?  
Gloria Dump has Opal promise to invite the two boys to be Opal's friend. Miss Franny asks Opal to cheer her up. (No definite pages, answers may vary)
- How does Opal persuade Otis to come to the party? Opal persuades Otis to do a week of work in the pet shop, and the thought of playing for people.

### Chapter 21 – 26

- Why is Opal so glad to see Amanda at the party because she is hopeful that she will smile a little bit. Pg. 147 (answers may vary)
- Why do you think Otis is reluctant to go to the party?  
Otis is reluctant to go to the party, maybe because he is a very nervous mix of other people, he is used to the comfort of the pet shop. pgs. 148-149 (answers may vary)
- What does Opal's father mean when he says "We appreciate the compliment?"  
When Opal's father says this, he is talking to his God, he is thanking Him in prayer for the compliment, and create friendships, sometimes complicated.
- Why does Opal forget about Winn-Dixie?  
Opal forgets about Winn-Dixie because in the bedlam of trying to get every partygoer, not just Opal forgot about the dog. pgs. 154-157
- What does Gloria say to Opal about loving something?  
Gloria tells Opal "There ain't no way you can hold on to something that you got while you got it." Gloria is basically telling Opal that no matter what you let him, because there is no use loving something that isn't there. pg. 155
- Why does Opal's father cry?  
Opal's father starts to cry because Opal had mentioned the fact that her mother probably didn't even look for her. This hurt the preacher's feelings, yet after looking for Winn-Dixie. pgs. 165-166
- How do Opal's friends find Winn-Dixie?  
Opal's friends find Winn-Dixie right in Gloria Dump's house, underneath the tree and that's how they found him, from his smiling, sneezing fits. pg. 167
- How does Dunlap surprise Opal at the end of the book?  
Dunlap surprises Opal at the end of the book by offering his hand to her to a Dewberry boy could be so caring. pgs. 179-180

### Thematic Response - Loneliness

After the party, Opal goes to Gloria's mistake tree and tells her mother how she feels. How has Opal's life changed to make her feel this way? In response.

Throughout the book, Opal's life changes dramatically. She didn't have any friends to talk to. Then, one fantastic day, Winn-Dixie came. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal meets Miss Franny and is pleased to have Winn-Dixie needs a collar and leash she is brought into the life of Opal. Opal helps Winn-Dixie she would have never met Gloria Dump, who is the one who brought the preacher and Opal closer together, from her father telling her ten things about her mother while walking around in the rain searching for their beloved friend. All in all, because of Winn-Dixie, Opal's life suddenly becomes "full." She gained friends, love from her father, and her loneliness is no longer existent. (answers may vary)

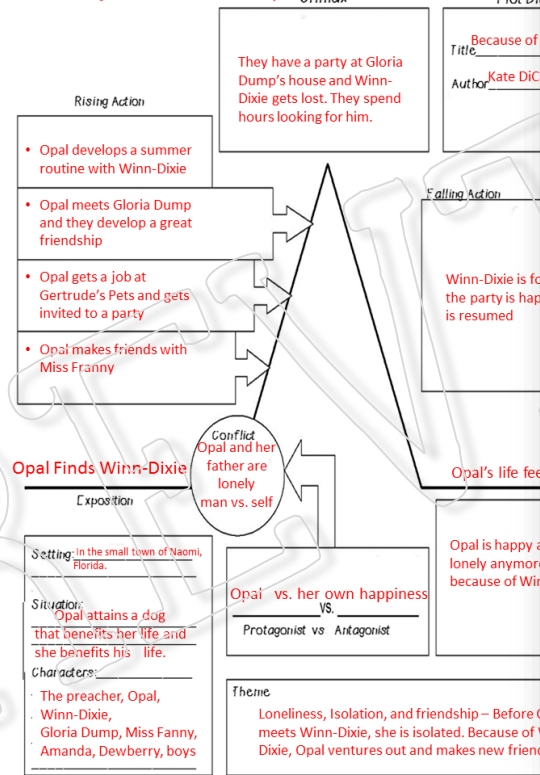
Design by Darlette Knight (Study All Knight) 2014

## Characters Answer Key

Who?	I know this character is...
Opal	The main character who is 10 years old. Her mother left her at a young age and is very curious about her mother. Her and her father have recently moved to a small town where she knows no one. She there finds her best friend, Winn-Dixie and meets other new friends.
The Preacher	Opal's father who she once described him as an old turtle, always sticking his head into his turtle shell and never wanting to come out into the real world, most likely because of how sad he is about her mother, whom he is still in love with.
Winn-Dixie	An old scraggly dog that Opal finds in the "Dixie Mart" who grows on Opal and has a very big heart. He also becomes friends with everyone he encounters.
Gloria Dump	A blind recovering alcoholic with a mistake tree in her backyard that has beer bottles hanging from it, which she describes as the ghosts of all the things she has done wrong. Most of the kids in the neighborhood are scared of Gloria and thinks she is a witch, but once you get to know her, as Opal did, she is a very sweet woman.
Miss Franny Block	an older woman who runs the Herman W. Block Memorial Library who Opal becomes friends with and she tells her many funny stories.
Otis	Shy ex-convict with a passion for music.
Sweetie Pie Thomas	A girl who is eager to get a dog like Winn-Dixie.
Dunlap and Stevie Dewberry	Dunlap and Stevie Dewberry- the two brothers that Opal gets to become friends with.
Mama	(not present in the story)-Opal's mother left her when she was a very young child and she does not know much about her. But, Opal learns ten things about her mom by her dad telling her.

Design by Darlette Knight (Study All Knight) 2014

## Plot Diagram Answer Key



Design by Darlette Knight (Study All Knight) 2014

**The pound** - noun a public enclosure for stray animals  
**stray** - noun homeless cat or dog  
**exception** - noun a deliberate act or omission  
**missionary** - noun a person who is sent to a foreign country to spread the Christian faith  
**orphan** - adj. deprived of parents or a person who lacks support or care

**constellation** - noun a configuration of stars  
**memorize** - verb commit to memory  
**alcoholism** - noun habitual intoxication with alcohol and an addiction to alcohol  
**appreciate** - verb express approval of; value  
**pen** - noun long bench with backs; writing instrument

**peculiar** - adj. characteristic of one person or thing  
**advanced** - adj. (of societies) highly developed  
**proudful** - adj. joyful and proud esp. because of an achievement  
**installment** - noun a part of a purchase price  
**plan** - noun scale drawing of a structure  
**allowance** - noun the act of allowing  
**Dust bunnies** - a ball of dust and fibers  
**identical** - being the exact same  
**holler** - noun a very loud utterance out of; complaining; utter a sudden loud cry  
**jungle** - noun a location marked by dense forest; a place where hobbes camp

**pathological** - adj. caused by or resembling disease  
**spell** - noun a verbal formula believed to have magical powers  
**criminal** - adj. guilty of crime or deserving punishment  
**roundabout** - adj. deviating from a straight path  
**shame** - noun a painful emotion resulting from a sense of disgrace or dishonor  
**imitated** - verb take or follow as a model

**fit** - adj. physically and mentally suited; appropriate  
**temper** - verb insert or adjust  
**Civil War** - a war between groups or nations  
**slave states** - the Southern slave states individually and collectively  
**country** - the states that did not own slaves  
**slavery** - noun the practice of owning and using another person

**enlist** - verb join the military; engage somebody to enter the army; hire for work or assistance  
**notion** - noun (usually plural) small personal articles or clothing or sewing items; a general inclusive concept; an odd or fanciful or capricious idea; a vague idea in which some confidence is placed  
**Yankee** - noun 1. native or inhabitant of the United States. 2. a native or inhabitant of New England.  
**Yankee** - noun 1. native or inhabitant of a northern U.S. state, especially one of the northeastern states that sided with the Union in the American Civil War.  
**Yankee** - noun 2. a federal or northern soldier in the American Civil War.  
**vermin** - noun any of various small animals or insects that are pests; e.g. cockroaches or rats; an irritating or obnoxious person  
**typhoid** - noun serious infection marked by intestinal inflammation and ulceration; caused by *Salmonella typhi* ingested with food or water  
**fever** - noun a rise in the temperature of the body; frequently a symptom of infection  
**lozenge** - noun a small aromatic or medicated candy; a dose of medicine in the form of a small pellet (cough drop)  
**manufactured** - adj. produced in a large-scale industrial operation  
**melancholy** - adj. characterized by or causing or expressing sadness; grave or even gloomy in character; morose  
**apologize** - verb acknowledge faults or shortcomings or failing; defend, explain, clear away, or make excuses  
**idle** - verb not in active use; not in action or at work; not having a job; lacking a sense of restraint or responsibility; silly or trivial; not yielding a return; without a basis in reason or fact; noun the state of an engine or other mechanism that is idling; verb run disconnected or idle; be idle; exist in a changeless situation  
**conversation** - noun the use of speech for informal exchange of views or ideas or information etc.

**barbecue** - noun a rack to hold meat for cooking over hot charcoal usually out of doors; a cookout in which food is cooked over an open fire  
**theme** - noun a unifying idea that is a recurrent element in a literary or artistic work  
**convince** - verb make (someone) agree, understand, or realize the truth or validity of something  
**frilly** - adj. having decorative ruffles  
**Dump Punch** - noun an iced mixed drink prepared for multiple servings; normally served in a punch bowl (orange juice, grapefruit juice, and seltzer or club soda)  
**wobble** - noun an unsteady rocking motion; verb move unsteadily  
**sway** - noun controlling influence; pitching dangerously to one side; verb move back and forth or sideways  
**shimmer** - noun a weak and tremulous light; verb give off a shimmering reflection  
**amused** - adj. pleasantly occupied; to stir up interest  
**complicated** - adj. difficult to analyze or understand  
**croak** - noun a harsh hoarse utterance (as of a frog); verb utter a hoarse sound, like a raven; pass from physical life and lose all bodily attributes and functions necessary to sustain life; make complaining remarks or noises under one's breath

**teeter** - noun a plaything consisting of a board balanced on a fulcrum; the board is hidden up and down by children at either end; verb move unsteadily, with a rocking motion  
**downpour** - noun a heavy rain  
**whheeze** - noun breathing with a husky or whistling sound; verb breathe with difficulty  
**myth** - noun a traditional story accepted as history; serves to explain the world view of a people  
**hymn** - noun a song of praise (to God or to a saint or to a nation)  
**strum** - noun sound of the strings of a string instrument

Design by Darlette Knight (Study All Knight) 2014

- How does Opal feel about her father's decision to let her keep Winn-Dixie?  
Opal feels happy and grateful because she has found her best friend and a home for him.
- How does Opal treat Stevie and Dunlap Dewberry at the end of Chapter 17?  
Opal is kind and understanding towards them, recognizing their struggles and offering them support.
- Why does Opal's father make her apologize to Stevie Dewberry?  
Opal's father wants Opal to apologize to Stevie Dewberry because he had heard that Opal called him a "bald-headed baby," pgs. 123-124
- What does Opal find out about Amanda's brother Carson?  
Opal finds out that just last year, Amanda's brother Carson had drowned at the young of five. pgs. 124-125

Design by Darlette Knight (Study All Knight) 2014