



Because
of Winn
Dixie

Educator's Guide

Reading, Writing, and Winn-Dixie



Four weeks before the release of the film, read *Because of Winn-Dixie* to your students and follow the weekly activities on the next page. Be sure to have students keep a writing journal as you read the book. The worksheets listed in the table of contents below complement the four-week reading and writing program.

WORKSHEETS FOR GRADES 2-5

NATIONAL STANDARDS

In Search of Winn-Dixie
(Gr. 2-5)

Language Arts: NCTE/IRA Standard 1 – Communication Skills
Visual Arts: CNAEA Standard 2 – Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions

Because of You (Gr. 2-5)

Civics: NCSS Standard 5 – Roles of the Citizen

**Maybe You Can Set Me Up
on an Installment Plan?** (Gr. 4-5)

Mathematics: NCTM Number and Operations Standard 3
– Compute fluently and make reasonable estimates

**Littmus Lozenges:
Sweet & Sorrowful** (Gr. 4-5)

Language Arts: NCTE/IRA Standard 3 – Evaluation Strategies

***Because of Winn-Dixie:*
The Movie vs. The Book** (Gr. 4-5)

Language Arts: NCTE/IRA Standard 6 – Applying Knowledge



BOOK A FIELD TRIP! CALL 877-WIN-DIXI

Take your class to see *Because of Winn-Dixie* at a theater near you. Call 877-WIN-DIXI (877-946-3494) to ask about special school group screenings that include the ***Because of Winn-Dixie* Reading Workshop** – a 30-minute bonus educational program presented after the film. *Because of Winn-Dixie* author Kate DiCamillo and select cast will discuss the movie and share insights into reading, writing, and creativity.



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Read Aloud and Write

IN THEATERS
FEBRUARY 18, 2005

Because of Winn-Dixie, published by Candlewick Press, ISBN: 0-7636-1605-2.

Week 1: To Market and Winn-Dixie

Read Aloud: Chapters 1-7

Writing Journal: Have students maintain ongoing character webs in their writing journals. For each character's name, ask students to write words that describe that character's personality. Do this with each new character in the book. Add new adjectives as students learn more about the characters.

Worksheet: Use the *In Search of Winn-Dixie* worksheet as a follow-up exercise once you have finished the book.

Extension Activity: Help your students learn more about your local Humane Society and the process of adopting a pet. Arrange a trip to a nearby animal shelter, or ask a veterinarian or shelter worker to visit your class. See student worksheet: *Because of You*.

Week 2: Gertrude's Pets and Gloria Dump

Read Aloud: Chapters 8-13

Writing Journal: Ask students to choose one of the following questions to answer in their writing journals: Who is Gloria Dump and why are the Dewberrys afraid of her? What makes people afraid of other people? Why do the Dewberrys annoy Opal?

Worksheet: *Maybe You Can Set Me Up on an Installment Plan?*

Extension Activity: Have students imagine and draw what the set for Gertrude's Pets might look like in the movie.



Week 3: Franny Block, Littmus Lozenges, and Otis

Read Aloud: Chapters 14-20

Writing Journal: Review the author's use of similes when characters describe the taste of Littmus Lozenges (pp. 119, 129, and 132), then pose the following writing prompt: "Imagine that you had eaten a Littmus Lozenge. What would *melancholy* taste like to you? Use descriptive adjectives and similes like the author."

Worksheet: *Littmus Lozenges: Sweet & Sorrowful*

Extension Activity: Have the class make their own Littmus Lozenges. Learn about sugar crystals and how they form into rock candy. Here's a helpful resource:
www.exploratorium.edu/cooking/candy/recipe-rockcandy.html.

Week 4: The Party

Read Aloud: Chapters 21-26

Writing Journal: Have students write a journal entry in the voice of one of the characters. Prompt them to write about how their character feels as he or she gets ready for the party at Gloria Dump's house.

Worksheet: *Because of Winn-Dixie: The Movie vs. The Book*

Extension Activity: Make dog-themed invitations like Sweetie Pie Thomas and throw a class party. Don't forget the egg salad sandwiches, Otis' pickles, and music!



Because of Winn- Dixie

In Search of Winn-Dixie

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: Pretend that you are the director of the movie *Because of Winn-Dixie*. You need to find a dog that will play the part of Winn-Dixie. In the box, draw a picture of what you think Winn-Dixie should look like. Go back to the book for descriptions of Winn-Dixie to help you. Below your picture, write ten things or characteristics you know about Winn-Dixie. Think about his appearance, personality, likes, and dislikes. Use adjectives and remember to write in complete sentences.



TEN THINGS I KNOW ABOUT WINN-DIXIE:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Watch the movie
Because of Winn-Dixie.
Did the dog that plays
Winn-Dixie match up
to your description
above? Explain why
or why not on the
back of this sheet.

BOOK A FIELD TRIP! CALL 877-WIN-DIXI

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal had an easier time making friends in her new town. Winn-Dixie helped Opal meet and reach out to her neighbors.

DIRECTIONS: As a class, discuss the questions below. Then on your own, come up with some ways you can help or volunteer in your school community.

Class Discussion: Name some ways Opal helped her neighbors in Naomi. Think about the people in her town such as Gloria Dump, Amanda Wilkinson, Miss Franny Block, and Otis.

List ways you can help your classmates or school community. Write in complete sentences.

What are some ways your class can volunteer in your school community? Write in complete sentences.

Class Discussion: How did Opal's relationships with Amanda Wilkinson and the Dewberry brothers change from the beginning to the end of the story? What caused this change?

If a new student started at your school, how could you help him/her? List some ways you could help and be a friend. Write in complete sentences.

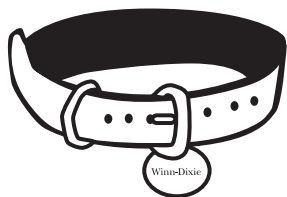
Maybe You Can Set Me Up on an Installment Plan?

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

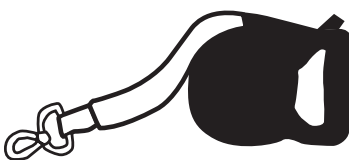
"But I love this collar and leash, and so does my dog, and I was thinking that maybe you could set me up on an installment plan... I could come in and sweep the floors and dust the shelves and take out the trash. I could do that." —*Opal Buloni*

DIRECTIONS: Help Opal set up an installment plan with Otis in order to buy Winn-Dixie's collar and leash. Read the facts then solve the problems below. Show your work.

THE FACTS



Dog collar: \$7.25



Dog Leash: \$12.75

Sweep the store: \$0.75
Dust the shelves: \$0.50
Take out the trash: \$0.25

What is the total cost of the dog collar and leash? _____

How much money in all does Opal earn for sweeping the store, dusting the shelves, and taking out the trash? _____

If Opal sweeps, dusts, and takes out the trash once a week, how many weeks will she have to work in order to buy the dog collar and leash? _____

If Opal only has time to sweep the store and take out the trash once a week, how many weeks will she have to work in order to buy only the dog collar? _____

If Opal sweeps, dusts, takes out the trash once a week, and decides to use \$2.00 from her own allowance as a part of her installment plan, how many weeks will she have to work in order to buy the dog collar and leash? _____

Point to Ponder: Is it better to save up and then pay for something, or pay for it little by little on an installment plan? Why? Write your answer on the back of this sheet. Write in complete sentences.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

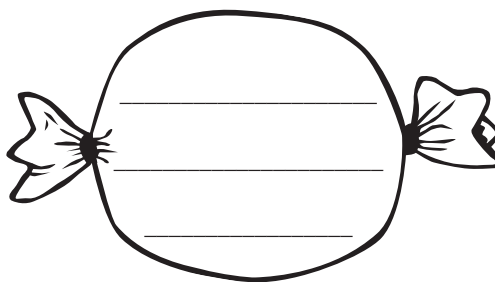
When the characters eat Littmus Lozenges, they all have feelings that are a mix of sweet and sad, a combination known as *melancholy*. Each character has been touched by another character in a way that helps make their lives taste a little sweeter.

DIRECTIONS: Make a web that shows the relationships that have been created in Naomi, FL. On the lines inside each person's lozenge, write what made that person feel melancholy or sorrowful. Draw arrows between lozenges and write on the lines of the arrow what that character did to make the other character's life a little sweeter. Two have been done for you as an example.

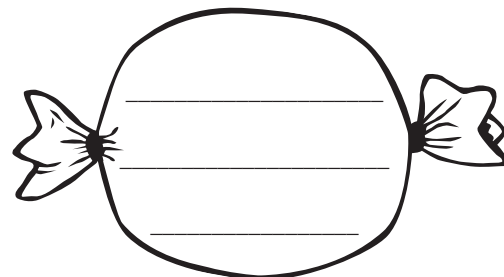
OPAL



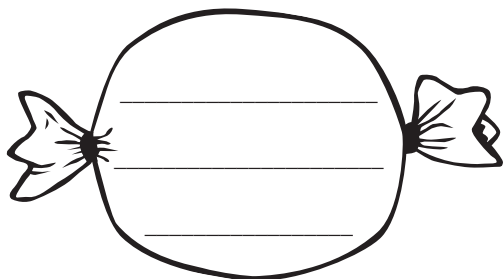
He became Opal's first friend.



PREACHER

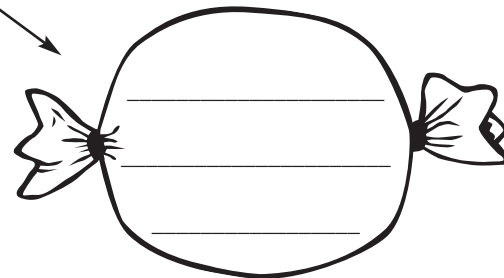


OTIS

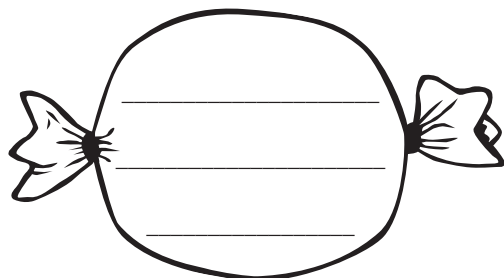


Stole her peanut butter sandwich and made her laugh.

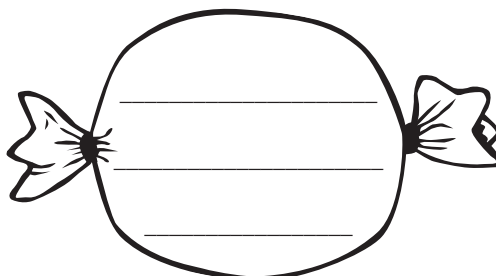
GLORIA DUMP



FRANNY BLOCK



AMANDA



Because of Winn- Dixie

Because of Winn-Dixie The Movie vs. The Book

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: The movie *Because of Winn-Dixie* is based on the book of the same title by Kate DiCamillo. Use this worksheet to compare and contrast the book and the movie. First, jot down ideas about how the two versions of the story are similar. Write these similarities in the space where the circles overlap. Then note the differences between the two and write them in the appropriate circle. Use the back of this worksheet if necessary.

THE MOVIE

THE BOOK

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DIFFERENCES

SIMILARITIES

DIFFERENCES

Which do you think was better, the book or the movie? Why?

Explain specific changes you would make to improve the book and/or the movie. Write your explanation as a letter to the author, Kate DiCamillo, and/or the director, Wayne Wang. Use the back of this worksheet to write your draft. Then write your final letter on a separate sheet of paper.

BOOK A FIELD TRIP! CALL 877-WIN-DIXI

Chapter 1

1. How did Opal and Winn-Dixie meet?
2. What unique talent does Winn-Dixie have?
3. Why did Opal think that Winn-Dixie didn't belong to anyone?

Chapter 2

1. Why did Opal and her father move to Naomi, Florida?
2. Do you think Opal feels close to her father? Why or why not?
3. To what animal does Opal compare the preacher? Why are they similar?
4. How does The Preacher react to Winn-Dixie when they meet for the first time? How does Winn-Dixie win over The Preacher?

Chapter 3

1. What does Opal say makes she and Winn-Dixie alike?
2. What happened to Opal's mother?
3. What does Opal ask her father to tell her?

Chapter 4

1. What ten things does The Preacher tell Opal about her mother? Which of these suggests that Opal's mother was unhappy?
2. What does Opal do right after The Preacher tells her the list of ten things about her mother? Why does she do this?

Chapter 5

1. How does Winn-Dixie react to being left alone? What did Opal and her father have to do because of this problem?
2. Can you describe the Open Arms Baptist Church of Naomi?
3. What happened during Winn-Dixie's first trip to church?
4. Why is Opal lonely?

Chapter 6

1. Who is Miss Franny Block and what is her job?
2. Describe how Miss Franny Block and Winn-Dixie first met.

Chapter 7

1. How did Miss Franny Block become a librarian?
2. What animal came into the library and frightened Miss Franny Block?
3. How did she scare the bear away? What did the bear take with him from the library?
4. Why is Miss Franny Block lonely? What do Opal and Miss Franny Block decide?
5. Who came into the library after Miss Franny Block finished her story? Can you describe Amanda Wilkinson?



Chapter 8

1. What does Opal want to buy from Gertrude's Pets? Why can't she buy it right then and what does she suggest so that she can buy it?
2. Who is Gertrude? Do Winn-Dixie and Gertrude the Parrot like each other?
3. What does Sweetie Pie Thomas want? Where does she invite Opal?

Chapter 9

1. Can you describe Opal's relationship with Dunlap and Stevie Dewberry? Do they like each other?
2. How did Winn-Dixie help Opal and Gloria Dump meet?
3. What is Gloria Dump's disability?

Chapter 10

1. Why does telling Gloria Dump all about her life make Opal feel good?
2. What do Opal and Gloria Dump do before Opal leaves?

Chapter 11

1. What frightens Winn-Dixie?
2. How does The Preacher respond to Winn-Dixie's pathological fear of thunderstorms?
3. What does Opal learn about The Preacher from his response?

Chapter 12

1. What does Otis' guitar playing do to animals?
2. What happens when Otis stops playing his guitar? How does Opal manage to catch all of the animals?
3. Why does Opal think her father might not like her working for Otis?

Chapter 13

1. What do Opal and the Dewberry boys fight about?
2. What does Gloria Dump think Opal and the Dewberry boys should do?

Chapter 14

1. What does Gloria show Opal in the back of her yard?
2. What are the bottles in the tree supposed to do? Where did all of the bottles come from? What problem did Gloria and Opal's mother both have?
3. How does Gloria tell Opal she should judge people?

Chapter 15

1. Miss Franny becomes ill sometimes. What happens to her? How does Winn-Dixie react?
2. How does Opal decide to comfort Gloria?
3. What book does Miss Franny suggest and what is it about?

Chapter 16

1. How old was Littmus Block when he went to war? Why did he join the army?
2. What does Miss Franny tell Opal and Amanda is the truth about war? Why was the war so hard on Littmus and other soldiers?
3. What did Littmus find had happened to his home and family once the war was over?

Chapter 17

1. What did Littmus decide to do once he found that he was all alone?
2. What does a Littmus Lozenge taste like? How does it make you feel?
3. Could the Littmus Lozenge be a metaphor for anything?

Chapter 18

1. What does The Preacher tell Opal she must say to Stevie Dewberry?
2. Who is Carson and what happened to him?

Chapter 19

1. Why did Otis go to jail?
2. What did Otis have to promise when he was released from jail?

Chapter 20

1. What does reading *Gone with the Wind* inspire Opal to do? Why does she want to throw a party?
2. What does Opal have to promise Gloria in order to have the party?
3. Who does Opal invite to her party?

Chapter 21

1. What do Opal and Gloria serve at their party? How do they decorate the garden?
2. How does Opal know that Otis has arrived?
3. What does each of the guests bring to the party?

Chapter 22

1. In his blessing, for what is The Preacher most thankful?
2. Why does everyone go inside?

Chapter 23

1. Who is missing once the party moves inside?
2. What does Gloria whisper to Opal? Is what she says only true about losing a dog?

Chapter 24

1. Who goes looking for Winn-Dixie? Where do they search?
2. What does Opal do while she is looking for Winn-Dixie? What is on her list? Why is the list not good enough for her?
3. Why does The Preacher cry?
4. What important thing did Opal's mother leave behind?

Chapter 25

1. How did those left at the party find Winn-Dixie?
2. Why did Winn-Dixie sneeze?
3. Why is Opal so happy at the end of the chapter?