

Because of Winn Dixie Comprehension Questions

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 appearance?

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?

Chapter 6 – 10

1. Why does Miss Franny Block finally allow Winn-Dixie into the library?

2. How did Miss Franny obtain the Herman W. Block Memorial Library?

3. What does Opal promise to do so that she can earn Winn-Dixie a red collar and leash from the pet store?

4. Why is Opal so happy at the end of Chapter 8?

5. Who invites Opal to her first party in Naomi?

Why doesn't Opal like Stevie and Dunlap Dewberry?

6. How does Opal finally end up going into Gloria Dump's yard?

7. How does Gloria Dump suggest they test Opal "green thumb"?

8. How has Winn Dixie helped Opal make new friends?

9. What amazes Opal at the end of Chapter 10?

Chapter 11 – 15

1. Why does Opal's father say Winn-Dixie has a pathological fear of thunderstorms?

2. What is Opal feeling at the end of Chapter 11? Why?

3. Why does Otis play music for the animals in the pet shop?

4. Describe Opal's and Winn-Dixie daily routine that summer.

5. Why does Opal get mad at Stevie?

6. Why does Gloria Dump have a bottle in her yard?

7. What does Gloria Dump tell Opal about judging people?

8. Name two reasons that Opal holds tightly onto Winn-Dixie that summer.

Chapter 16 – 20

1. How did the war affect Miss Franny Block's great-grandfather?

2. What causes Opal to be sad as she eats the Littmus Lozenge?

3. How does Opal treat Stevie and Dunlap Dewberry at the end of Chapter 17?

4. Why does Opal's father make her apologize to Stevie Dewberry?

5. What does Opal find out about Amanda's brother Carson?

6. Why did Otis go to jail?

7. Why does Gloria Dump make Opal invite Stevie and Dunlap Dewberry and Amanda Wilkinson to the party?

8. How does Opal persuade Otis to come to the party?

Chapter 21 – 26

1. Why is Opal so glad to see Amanda at the party?

2. Why do you think Otis is reluctant to go to the party?

3. What does Opal’s father mean when he says “We appreciate the complicated and wonderful gifts you give to us in each other?”

4. Why does Opal forget about Winn-Dixie?

5. What does Gloria say to Opal about loving something?

6. Why does Opal’s father cry?

7. How do Opal’s friends find Winn-Dixie?

8. How does Dunlap surprise Opal at the end of the book?

When you have finished reading the book, chose one of the activities below to do as a project.

- Imagine Miss Frannie the librarian has asked you to tell a story about something amazing that happened to you. Think about something that's happened in your life that would make a great story. The write your story and share it with the group. Make sure your story has a beginning, middle, and an end.
- Opal wants to create a dog care handbook for her class based on her experiences caring for Winn-Dixie. What would the handbook say? Create a handbook and make sure to include tips on feeding, grooming, and other important information.
- How do the people in Naomi act like a community? In what ways is Naomi, Florida, like your community? In what ways is it different? Create a Venn-diagram to compare and contrast your community with Naomi, Florida.
- The words below are used in the book. Look up each word in a dictionary and write its definition. Then, find the word in the book and write the sentence that has that word. Based on the book, tell in your own words what the word means. Use the example from the book to help your explanation.
 - missionary (p. 13)
 - exception (p. 15)
 - peculiar (p. 47)
 - identical (p. 61)
 - pathological (p. 76)
 - roundabout (p. 91)
 - imitated (p. 92)
 - notion (p. 105)
 - melancholy (p. 121)
 - amuse (p. 151)
 - complicated (p. 153)
 - wheezed (p. 175)
- Kate DiCamillo says, "I love strange names and I love making them up." Names often contain other meanings and can influence a reader's perception of a character. Choose a character with an interesting name. Is there a story behind the character's name or nickname? Does the name influence the way you see and understand the character? Does the name reflect the character's personality and character traits?