

Because of Winn-Dixie! Novel Study Curriculum Map

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni finds moving to Naomi, Florida with her preacher father very difficult, but when she adopts a stray dog she finds at the local supermarket, her life takes a turn for the better. Over the course of her first summer in Naomi, with the help of her new animal friend, Winn-Dixie, Opal makes new and fascinating friends and gets her father to open up about there long-absent mother. Opal grows to appreciate all the wonderful things in her life, and while she begins to realize that her mother is never coming back, she also knows that she has so much to be thankful for.

Reproducible chapter questions, plus comprehension questions, a story summary, author biography, and creative and cross curricular activities.

Overall Expectations; The students will:

- develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication
- use good literature as a vehicle for developing skills required by curriculum expectations: reasoning and critical thinking, knowledge of language structure, vocabulary building, and use of conventions
- become meaningfully engaged in the drama of literature through a variety of types of questions and activities
- identify and describe elements of stories (i.e., plot, main idea, characters, setting)
- learn and review many skills in order to develop good reading habits
- provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations
- organize and classify information to clarify thinking
- learn about the destructive nature of societal prejudice and stereotyping
- relate events and feelings found in the novel to their own lives and experiences
- appreciate the importance of friendship and loyalty in personal relationships
- learn the importance of dealing with adversity and developing perseverance in the face of adversity
- state their own interpretation of a written work, using evidence from the work and from their own knowledge and experience

Introduction includes:

- Overall Expectations
- Learning Expectations Skill List
- List of Skills
- Student Checklist
- Teacher Suggestions
- Summary of the Story
- Author Biography
- Answer Key

Chapter Questions

- **Chapters One and Two**
 - Student Booklet Cover
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity
- **Chapters Three and Four**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity
- **Chapter Five**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity
- **Chapters Six and Seven**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapter Eight**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapter Nine and Ten**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapter Eleven**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapter Twelve**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapters Fifteen and Sixteen**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapter Seventeen**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary

- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activity

- **Chapter Eighteen**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapter Nineteen**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapter Twenty**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapters Twenty-One and Twenty-Two**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapters Twenty-Three and Twenty-Four**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapter Twenty-Five**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language Activity

- **Chapter Twenty-Six**
 - Before You Read
 - Vocabulary
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Language

Because of Winn-Dixie

by Kate DiCamillo



Name: _____



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Chapters One and Two

Before you read the chapters:

The novel's main character is named **India Opal Buloni**. Later in the novel Opal admits that she was often teased because of her surname. Explain why you think this would be the case.

Define two meanings of the word **baloney** (use a dictionary if necessary).

What is another way of spelling **baloney**?

Have you ever moved to a new town or to a new home across town? Describe the **difficulties** that such a move might cause.

Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

concerned
distracted

display
sermon

hollered
admit

cashier
exceptions

immediately
specific

1. If you want something right away, ask for it to be done _____.
2. When people lose their concentration, they are said to be _____.
3. The clergyman delivered an interesting _____ at church on Sunday.
4. The _____ mother had a worried look on her face.
5. The department store put a variety of sporting goods on _____.
6. There were no _____ to the rules of the school.



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7. A clerk working behind the counter is called a _____.
8. To confess to a crime is to _____ one's guilt.
9. When planning a trip, one should be _____ about the route and destination.
10. Johnny's mother _____ at him to come for supper.

Questions

1. The dog in chapter one is quite unique in appearance. Check the following descriptors that apply to the dog.

☐ big

☐ tailless

☐ tongue hanging out

☐ wagging tail

☐ skinny

☐ bald patches

☐ female

☐ ugly

2. Why did the dog always appear to be smiling?

3. What three things was Opal supposed to bring back from the grocery store?

4. What did she bring home instead?

5. What was Opal afraid might happen if the manager called the pound?

6. What made Opal think that the dog did not belong to anyone?

7. Describe the setting of the story. Be specific (example: the time of year, place).



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8. What did Opal's dad do for a living before becoming a preacher? What would be the responsibilities of such an occupation?

9. What three things tended to distract the preacher?

10. Why do you think the preacher allowed Opal to keep the dog?

Language Activities

1. The author seems to enjoy using **similes** to describe different things. (A **simile** is a comparison using the words **like** or **as**.) Examples from the story include:

"... he looked like a big piece of old brown carpet that had been left out in the rain."

"... their taillights glowed red, like mean eyes staring at us."

Use similes to compare the following:

- a) The sound of a small dog barking - _____
 - b) The frigid temperature of winter - _____
 - c) The threats of a schoolyard bully - _____
2. Explain what you think Opal meant by the following statement: "**It's hard not to** immediately fall in love with a dog who has a good sense of humor." Do you think she is right? Explain.

