Because of Winn Dixie: Reading Schedule

We are excited to bring *Because of Winn Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo, to our Wolford Families. We know the importance of talking about books with our students to help increase their vocabulary and comprehension. We hope that by reading a common book, our students will have many opportunities to share their thinking. Many of us can remember curling up with a good book and reading with someone special. We hope you and your child/children enjoy this optional Wolford Reads opportunity. Each day our students will be asked a trivia question based on the chapters they read the night before.

There are many different themes and discussion points throughout the book. While the story itself can be read in a light-hearted and literal manner, parents may want to explore some topics further and extend conversations beyond the chapter, depending on the age of the child and family experiences. Some re-occurring themes throughout the book are: acceptance, abandonment, alcoholism, friendship, loss, love, and compassion. Read the chapters on the evenings/days listed. We would love it if you would send in a picture of you and your child/children reading together.

Monday, October 20th
Chapter 1: In this chapter, the reader will be introduced to our main character, India Opal Buloni and Winn-Dixie, her newly rescued dog. The setting is a grocery store and the author vividly describes Winn-Dixie and the personality traits that endear him to many characters throughout the book.
Vocabulary: *produce “the pound”*

Chapter 2: Opal brings Winn-Dixie home to meet her father, the Preacher, in this chapter. She explains Winn-Dixie as a “less fortunate” knowing her father raised her to help others in need and might be persuaded to offer Winn-Dixie a home. Opal describes her father, the first of several times, as a turtle hiding inside its shell.
Vocabulary: *stray exception missionary*

Tuesday, October 21st
Chapter 3: In this chapter, Opal talks to Winn-Dixie about family, her mother, and the Preacher. She compares Winn-Dixie to herself, both having lost family. Opal asks the Preacher to tell her ten things about her mother, because she is now ten years old.
Vocabulary: *orphans*

Chapter 4: Opal learns of ten, mostly endearing, things about her mom Some of the traits also describe Opal.
Vocabulary: *constellations memorize alcoholism*

Wednesday, October 22nd
Chapter 5 Winn-Dixie is welcomed in a surprising way by the Preacher’s congregation, The Open Arms Baptist Church, a very unusual church. Opal begins to think about being lonely.
Vocabulary: *applauded pews*

Chapter 6: Opal meets Franny Block at the local library. The theme of friendships and valuing the uniqueness of each other is established in this chapter. Please join us with your *Because of Winn Dixie Book Wednesday night for one dollar hot cocoa and coffee and a free cookie at R N R Coffee Café from 4:00- 5:00*
Thursday, October 23rd
Chapter 7: In this chapter, Opal spends time with Franny Block, though reminded of missing her mother. Opal and Winn-Dixie have made their first friend in Naomi. Vocabulary: peculiar advanced prideful
Chapter 8: Opal gets a job at Gertrude’s Pets in order to buy a leash and collar for Winn-Dixie. She is invited to a birthday party in September. Winn Dixie models for Otis and Opal how friendships begin. Opal is not feeling as lonely now. Vocabulary: installment plan allowance dust bunnies

Friday, October 24th
Chapter 9: The first sentence in this chapter links closely with the title of the book. Opal makes another unlikely friend, Gloria Dump. Gloria has poor vision and needs Opal to tell her everything about herself so she can “see” with her heart. Namecalling occurs in reference to Gloria and to Opal’s past. Vocabulary: identical hollered jungle
Chapter 10: Gloria reassures Opal that she can visit her anytime (and the wait-and-see tree they planted) and that she will not be going anywhere. Facetime or Skype a family member or friend and read these chapters

Monday, October 27th
Chapter 11: A thunderstorm in this chapter lets Opal know that Winn-Dixie is very fearful of thunderstorms, an important fact that will re-surface later in the story. Human fears are part of the dialogue in the chapter. Opal begins to see the Preacher’s love for Winn-Dixie. Vocabulary: pathological
Chapter 12: Opal discovers that Otis has a great talent for playing his guitar, singing, and soothing the pets. The reader finds out that Otis has great empathy for the caged animals in the store and admits he was in jail at one time. Unexpected, non-judgmental, friendships continue to develop. Vocabulary: spell criminal

Tuesday, October 28th
Chapter 13: Though Opal and Winn-Dixie have made many friends in Naomi, we learn in this chapter that their favorite place is Gloria Dump’s house. In defending her friends, Opal has words with the two Dewberry boys, Dunlap and Stevie. Vocabulary: roundabout shame
Chapter 14: This chapter reveals Gloria’s past struggle with alcohol with an emphasis on learning from your mistakes and not judging others too harshly. A “bottle” tree in Gloria’s backyard symbolizes her mistakes and a way to keep the ghosts away. Gloria’s message? “You can’t always judge people by things they have done.” Vocabulary: imitated

Wednesday, October 29th
Chapter 15: In this chapter Franny Block starts to share a story about her great grandfather and his experiences in the Civil War. We also are reminded again that Winn-Dixie does not like thunderstorms. Vocabulary: fit Civil War slavery
Chapter 16: The story of Franny’s great grandfather, Litmus W. Block, continues in this chapter. One harsh word is found on page 105, (and again on page 116), that parents may want to substitute or be prepared for. Litmus suffers great loss due to the war. Vocabulary: enlisted notion Yankees vermin typhoid fever
Thursday, October 30th
Chapter 17: In this chapter, Miss Franny concludes the story and explains how Littmus survived despite all of his personal losses. He invented a candy that, though sweet tasting, also had a secret ingredient, sorrow. Those that had experienced sorrow could especially taste it in the lozenge. Her new friend Amanda had a secret sorrow that Opal wonders about. Opal knows she has experienced sorrow. She is recalling Gloria’s words to not judge others too harshly.
Vocabulary: lozenge manufactured

Chapter 18: In this chapter, Opal shares her lozenges with Gloria and the Preacher and hears their sad memories. Opal learns that Amanda lost her five year old brother, Carson, in a drowning accident one year ago. Opal feels more compassion for Amanda now that she knows her sorrow.
Vocabulary: melancholy apologize “idle conversation”

Friday, October 31st
Chapter 19: In this chapter, Opal shares a Littmus Lozenge with Otis, causing him to cry and reveal why he was jailed. Opal thinks that Otis and her mom were lonely.
Chapter 20: Opal tells Gloria what she learned about Otis and Amanda. Gloria believes that sometimes the whole world has an aching heart. While reading to Gloria and thinking of Otis’ sadness, Opal comes up with the idea of a party.
Vocabulary: barbeque theme

Monday, November 3rd
Chapter 21: The details of the party are described in this chapter. The party would be in the evening, triangle egg salad sandwiches and Dump Punch would be served. Littmus Lozenges and pickles were brought by guests. Crepe paper streamers and candle sand bags were used for decorations.
Vocabulary: convinced frilly Dump Punch wobble swayed shimmery

Chapter 22: The party continues and Opal introduces the guest of honor, Otis, to the other guests. Thunder is mentioned and rain begins to fall.
Vocabulary: amused complicated croaked

During lunch today, sit by someone you have never sat by before.

Tuesday, November 4th
Chapter 23: A storm begins and Winn-Dixie is missing. Opal is distraught that she did not protect him from his fear and leaves the party with the Preacher to look for Winn-Dixie. Gloria tells Opal that she can’t hold onto something that wants to go.
Vocabulary: teetery downpour

Chapter 24: Similar to the exercise in Chapter 4, Opal lists ten things to know about Winn Dixie. The Preacher cries when he remembers Opal’s mom leaving and realizes that Winn-Dixie has left too. He tells Opal how much he loved her mother. The author reveals how much the Preacher truly cherishes Opal. The two decide to keep searching for Winn Dixie.

Wednesday, November 5th
Chapter 25: Opal and the Preacher return to Gloria’s house and discover Winn-Dixie hidden under the bed and never left the house at all. The party continues. Opal feels great happiness.
Chapter 26: The book concludes with Opal walking to the mistake tree and saying her heart’s “full all the way up”. A friendship begins with Dunlap Dewberry. The party continues as the guests sing together.

Vocabulary: **wheezed myths hymns**

Vocabulary: **strummed**