






Because of
Winn-Dixie
By Kate DiCamillo

Comprehension

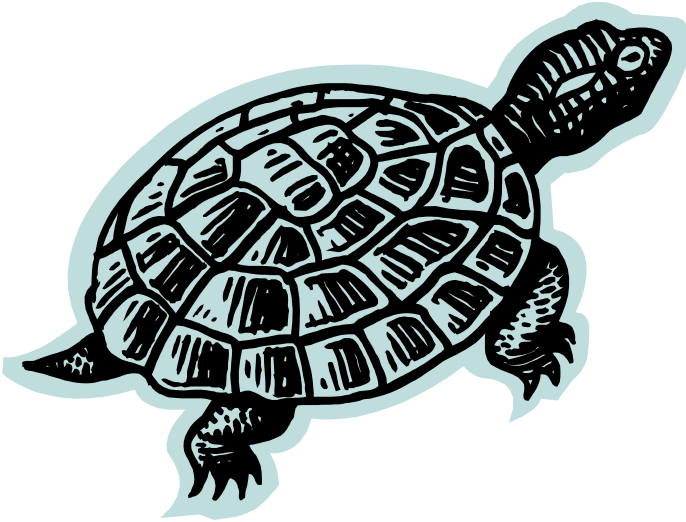
Attach What Did They Taste? here

Attach "turtle" piece here.

Attach "Because of Winn-Dixie" piece here.

	What did they taste?
	 Opal
	 Preacher
	 Sweetie Pie
	 Otis
 Amanda	

Cut out as one piece. Fold in half. Cut along dotted lines. Write inside what sadness the candy made them remember.



Cut around turtle along the blue trim. Cut out the box along the line. Staple the back foot of the turtle to the box so that the question shows. Lift the turtle flap and answer the question.

How was Opal's father
like a
turtle?

<p>Opal got a job because Winn-Dixie...</p>	<p>Opal got invited to a party because Winn-Dixie...</p>	<p>Opal met Gloria Dump because Winn-Dixie...</p>
---	--	---

Blank space for writing.

Because of Winn-Dixie



Cut out as one piece. Fold back top rectangle. Fold down picture rectangle so that the dog picture is on the cover. Cut along the lines between the words to make flaps. Lift each flap and write how it was because of Winn-Dixie each of those things happened.

Analysis

Attach Opal's Character piece here.

Attach Opal's Relationship With Her Father piece here.

Describe Opal's character at the beginning of the book?

Describe Opal's character at the end of the book?

What happened to bring about the change?



Opal's
Character

Cut out as one piece. Fold in questions. Crease. Fold in cover picture. Open. Cut along lines between questions. Open each flap and answer the questions. Remember you can use the space behind the question as well as in the blank middle.

Describe Opal's relationship with her father at the beginning of the book?

Describe Opal's relationship with her father at the end of the book?

What happened to bring about the change?



Opal's Relationship With Her Father

Cut out as one piece. Fold in questions. Crease. Fold in cover picture. Open. Cut along lines between questions. Open each flap and answer the questions. Remember you can use the space behind the question as well as in the blank middle.



WHY

If life is like a Littmus Lozenge, sweet and sad, how is your life like one?
What are the sweet and sad parts of your life? What would you taste?

The Most Important Thing

In Chapter 14 Gloria says that she stopped doing wrong things when she learned what the most important thing was. She said the most important thing was different for everyone. If someone were an alcoholic like Gloria and Opal's mom, she might stop drinking when she realizes that the most important thing is her family. This kind of realization can help, but there is really only one true way to be free from sin and that's by dying to self and letting Jesus, the perfect One, live through you.

Memorize Matthew 22:37. If you loved God with all of your heart and soul and mind, He would be your most important thing. When you face a strong temptation to something wrong (you feel like you *have* to do it and can't help it), how can realizing that God is the most important thing help you to make the right choice and not sin?



Judging Others

Opal judged Amanda by her face. Amanda was a know-it-all and Opal didn't like her. But she didn't stop to realize that the librarian had been a know-it-all too, and she liked her a lot. Nor did she consider maybe there was a reason for her being "pinch-faced." She judged Otis by what she heard about him, that he had been in jail, even though she didn't know the reason why. She also judged Steve and Dunlap. How did judging them affect her? How did softening toward them change her views of them?

Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-12. When are Christians right to judge others?

Health

What is the definition of **addiction**?

What is the definition of **alcoholism**?

What is the definition of **drunkenness**? Or what does it mean to get drunk?

What does excess alcohol do to your body over time?

What effect does one glass of alcohol have on your body?

What effects did alcohol have on Opal's family?

For Parents: (Answers on next page)

Here are some discussion topics to talk over with your child.

Opal's mother was an alcoholic. Gloria's character was as well. This is a good opportunity to talk about alcoholism, addiction, drinking in general according to your beliefs and if you have any alcoholics in your family history, the importance of not taking the first drink.

Also, the book mentions witches and ghosts. This is a good opportunity to discuss pretend witches and ghosts and real witches and ghosts. I tell my children that there are people who invite demons into their lives just like we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives. We want God's power to produce the righteousness of Christ in us. They want power too. The demons in them do have a certain amount of power. But they can control aspects of the person's life and make their life on earth hell. They are slaves to the demons and are tortured by them in their thoughts. Teach your kids about the occult (Ouija boards and such) and warn them, just like alcohol, they don't want to get mixed up with it by getting that first taste. Satan is roaming around like a lion to devour our children; warn them not to give him the opportunity to pounce.

As for ghosts I tell my children that demons are responsible for many ghost stories as well. Some are just people's fears making them imagine things, but there are people who live in homes where things have flown around the room. When we moved overseas to share the gospel with the Roma (Gypsies), we all of a sudden were introduced to many of these things. They welcomed the occult in their lives, and every home had a demon (they call them jinn—you see this word sometimes in literature like in the *Just So Stories*) living in it. They just said that some were good, some bad, and if yours was bad and caused problems for your house there was nothing to do but move! But Jesus is more powerful and in His name these demons, jinn, "ghosts" must go! I'll stop there, but take advantage of this opportunity to talk about these things with your children. Satan has covered up this a lot in America with the cutesy pretend ghosts and witches. But the real thing is becoming more prevalent all the time. Don't let your kids get mixed up in it (Harry Potter, etc.) thinking there is nothing more to all this than the pretend stuff. Another place to watch for this is when reading about Native Americans. They had a rite of passage ritual where basically they become demonized in order to become warriors.

You could also ask your child which adult character you are most like. How does your child see you? As the preacher who is always looking at papers and not engaged with the world or his feelings, as the recluse who's the best listener ever, as the librarian who is always ready with candy and an exciting story to share? It might be interesting to consider how your child sees you.

Answers:

Comprehension -- understanding

What did they taste?

In the book there was a candy that tasted sweet and sad, Littmus Lozenges. When someone tasted it they were reminded of the sorrow they've had in their life.

Opal – loneliness, (not having a mother, moving and leaving friends)

Preacher – wife leaving

Miss Franny – loneliness (all her friends have died)

Otis – being in jail

Amanda – Carson drowning

Sweetie Pie – not having a dog

Why was Opal's father like a turtle?

He hid from his feelings and from discussing Opal's mother.

Because of Winn-Dixie

Opal got a job because Winn-Dixie made friends with the pet bird at the store.

Opal got invited to a party because the girl thought Winn-Dixie was magic.

Opal met Gloria Dump because Winn-Dixie went running into her yard.

Analysis -- looking carefully at the individual pieces, dissecting

Opal's Character

In the beginning of the book Opal is lonely and missing her mother. By the end she has many friends and isn't thinking about her mother all the time. Because of Winn-Dixie she find other lonely people and befriends them. They also teach her about being a better friend to other children.

Opal's Relationship with her Dad

In the beginning of the book she calls him preacher instead of dad because it seemed like all he did was prepare sermons. At the end of the book they are close and understand each other. This happened because her father finally shared his feelings with her about her mother.

Synthesis – putting it all together

Littmus Lozenge

Answers are personal.

Most Important Thing

If you love God more with your whole heart, then you can't love sin. If you have the choice between loving God (obeying God) and loving sin (disobeying God), then whatever you love more you'll do. If you have a choice between loving someone else (sharing) or loving yourself (being greedy), you will do the right thing if you obey God's

commandments and love your neighbor.

Judging Others

Opal was mean and acted in ways she shouldn't have because she was judging others. She also avoided people and felt bad when they were around and wanted to get away from them. When she started to consider that maybe there was a reason they acted the way they did, she started acting nice to them. They acted nice back and she had friends. The Bible says we are to judge obvious sin (according to what is clearly stated in the Bible as sin and not our own personal convictions) in other believers to discontinue fellowship with them. (Not a practice often followed through on!)

Health

Addiction: a compulsive need for something

Alcoholism: excessive drinking of and dependence on alcohol

Drunkenness: mental and physical abilities impaired by drinking too much alcohol

Alcoholism: can cause disease in your liver and heart, epilepsy, increases chance of cancer

Alcohol: Slows your brain and heart rate, affects your blood, your vision

Alcohol affected Opal's family because her mother was an alcoholic. Her mother's drinking caused many fights between her and preacher. It caused Opal to be raised without a mother. It caused Opal years of loneliness and missing her mom.