# Because of Winn-Dixie

by Kate DiCamillo

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Because of Winn-Dixie  
by Kate DiCamillo

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.

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<th>concerned</th>
<th>display</th>
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<th>cashier</th>
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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.
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
   - [ ] wagging tail
   - [ ] female
   - [ ] tailless
   - [ ] skinny
   - [ ] tongue hanging out
   - [ ] bald patches
   - [ ] 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).

   ________________________________________________________________
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.

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________