

Because of Winn-Dixie

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Adapted Text

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Chapters 1- 4

Vocabulary: Opal, preacher, grocery store, Winn-Dixie, smile, Florida

¹My name is India **Opal** Buloni. My dad calls me **Opal**. My dad is a **preacher**. We just moved to Naomi, **Florida**. Last summer, the **preacher** sent me to **Winn-Dixie grocery store**. I walked into the produce section and the manager was yelling “Who let a dirty dog in here?” The manager was going to send the dog to the pound, but I kept him. I named him **Winn-Dixie** and he **smiled**.

²I brought **Winn-Dixie** home to meet the **preacher**. The **preacher** was not very happy about the dog. He had always told to me help others. **Winn-Dixie** needed my help. The preacher said I could keep **Winn-Dixie** if I cleaned him up. I gave **Winn-Dixie** a bath, and he **smiled**.

³After **Winn-Dixie**'s bath, we started talking. I told **Winn-Dixie** that the **preacher** and I had just moved to Naomi. I didn't have any friends or family. It was just the **preacher** and I. **Winn-Dixie** understood what I meant. I don't think he had any friends or family either. I told **Winn-Dixie** that he now had me, and he **smiled**.

⁴I told **Winn-Dixie** that my mom didn't live with us. I didn't know anything about her. The **preacher** didn't like to talk about her. **Winn-Dixie** and I went to the **preacher** to ask him about my mom. I told him to tell me ten things about her. I wrote down all ten things that he told me. I didn't want to forget them. I read them to **Winn-Dixie**, and he **smiled**.

Chapter 5-7

Vocabulary: neighborhood, howl, church, librarian, Miss Franny, bear, mouse

¹Winn-Dixie did not like to be left alone. If we left him alone, he **howled** so loud the other dogs in the neighborhood would **howl** back. Our neighbors did not like that. When the preacher and I went to **church** we would bring him with us. One day, we brought him to **church** and tied him outside to a tree. Winn-Dixie **howled** so loud. I had to bring him into the **church**. He sat next to me in **church**. There was a **mouse** in the **church**. Winn-Dixie ran after it. He caught it. The people in the **church** were happy, all because of Winn-Dixie.

² I spent a lot of time that summer at the Library. **Miss Franny** Block is the **librarian** there. She is a very small, very old woman. One day when I went to the library, Winn-Dixie watched me through the window. **Miss Franny** saw Winn-Dixie staring through the window. She screamed "Oh no, a **bear!**" I told **Miss Franny** that Winn-Dixie was not a **bear**. He was my dog. She told me a story about a **bear** that once came into her library and stole a book. She let Winn-Dixie into the library and we became friends, all because of Winn-Dixie.

Chapter 8

Vocabulary: healthy, proud, Sweetie Pie, expensive, Gertrude's Pets, birthday party, collar

¹ Winn-Dixie's hair began to grow. It looked very **healthy**. He was very **proud** of how good he looked. I was **proud** of him too. I went to the pet store, **Gertrude's Pets**, to buy him a new **collar**. We picked out the perfect **collar**. It was very **expensive**. I got a job at the store. I told the owner I would sweep and clean the store to help pay for Winn-Dixie's new collar. I had a new job, all because of Winn-Dixie.

² On our way home from the pet store, Winn-Dixie and I ran into a little girl named **Sweetie Pie**. She was only 5 years old, and she acted like it. She asked me about Winn-Dixie. She liked him. Her mom wouldn't let her get a dog. She invited Winn-Dixie and me to her **birthday party**. It had been a great day. I made friends with Miss Franny, got a job at **Gertrude's Pets** and got invited to a **birthday party**, all because of Winn-Dixie.

Chapters 9-10

Vocabulary: listen, heart, witch, Gloria Dump, bike

¹ After the pet store, the Dewberry boys started to ride their **bikes** behind me. They were talking about me. I was ignoring them. At this old house, Winn-Dixie went running. The boys told me that the lady that owned the house was a **witch**. They told me she would eat Winn-Dixie. I followed Winn-Dixie and found him eating a peanut butter sandwich from the lady. She was not a **witch**, she was very nice. Her name was **Gloria Dump**. She **listened** to me talk about my mom, and she knew how to **listen** with her **heart**. Winn-Dixie liked her, and so did I. We met a new friend, all because of Winn-Dixie.

Chapter 11

Vocabulary: thunderstorm, scared, thunder, house

¹ That night, there was a very bad **thunderstorm**. Winn-Dixie was outside, and he was not happy. I let Winn-Dixie in our **house**, because he was so **scared**. Winn-Dixie was shaking and crying. He ran around the **house**. He was afraid of **thunder** and lightning. I tried to calm Winn-Dixie down, but I couldn't, so the Preacher tried. The Preacher told me that Winn-Dixie had fear that he could not control. He said that Winn-Dixie would calm down after the storm was over. The Preacher was very nice to Winn-Dixie and tried to calm him down. I loved the Preacher. He was a nice man, all because of Winn-Dixie.

Chapter 12-13

Vocabulary: closed, Otis, music, guitar, animals, listening

¹ Winn-Dixie and I went to Gertrude's Pets. The sign on the door said **CLOSED**. The owner, **Otis**, was playing **guitar** for the animals. The rabbits and snakes were out of their cages. They were **listening** to the **music**. They were sitting still and **listening**. Winn-Dixie stopped moving too. He just listened to the music. When **Otis** noticed that I was there he stopped playing. The animals started running, and hopping around. **Otis** and I had to run around trying to get all the **animals** back in their cages. It was magical **music** that **Otis** was playing. I loved my new job, all because of Winn-Dixie.

² After we got all the **animals** away, I cleaned the floors and cages. Sweetie Pie Thomas had been watching us. She saw the magical **music** too. She went home. She told her mom what she saw. Every day Winn-Dixie and I went to the pet store to watch Otis play his magical **guitar music**. Sweetie Pie came too. I even told Ms. Gloria Dump about the magical **music**. This was becoming a very special summer, all because of Winn-Dixie.

Chapter 14-17

Vocabulary: jail, mom, Civil War, candy factory, bad choices

¹Otis told me that he was a criminal. He had been to **jail**. I told Ms. Dump that Otis had been to **jail**. She told me that sometimes people do bad things. Even nice people do things wrong, sometimes. I thought about my **mom**. Maybe she was one of those good people that made **bad choices**. I thought about her a lot that summer, all because of Winn-Dixie.

² Winn-Dixie and Opal went to the library to see Miss Franny Block. Sometimes Miss Block has fits like Winn-Dixie and she shakes all over. Winn-Dixie lays with her to comfort her when she shakes. When her shaking fit was over, she told us a story about her great grandfather. He fought in the **Civil War**. He was a brave. He started his own **candy factory** after the war. He became rich. Miss Block gave me a piece of candy. I got a piece for Winn-Dixie, the Preacher, Otis, and Gloria Dump, too. Franny Block felt better, all because of Winn-Dixie.

Chapter 18-21

Vocabulary: presents, book, sad, animals, party, candy

¹After the library, I went to visit Gloria Dump. I brought her two **presents**. I gave her the **candy** and a **book**. I was going to read her a **book**, because her eyes were too bad to see. She ate the **candy**. She told me it tasted like "**sad**." I didn't understand how **candy** can taste **sad**. After I read the first chapter of the **book** to her, we went home for the day.

²I gave the Preacher a piece of **candy**. I told him about Miss Franny Block's great-grandfather's **candy** factory. The Preacher told me the **candy** was good. He said it tasted like **sad** to him. He said it reminded him of my mother. The preacher said "good-night" to me, and patted Winn-Dixie on the head. I felt good, all because of Winn-Dixie.

³I gave Otis a piece of the **candy**. He told me it tasted like jail. I asked him why he was in jail. He told me it was because he was playing his guitar in the street. The police told him to stop and now he only plays for the **animals**. I gave Sweetie Pie a piece of candy. She spit hers out. She told me it tasted like "not having a dog." Then I went to read to Gloria Dump. We read about a **party**. I decided to have a **party**.

⁴We invited the Preacher, Miss Franny, Sweetie Pie, Otis, and we even invited the Dewberry Boys. The Preacher told me that I had to start being nice to them. Winn-Dixie helped with the decorations. Everyone came to the **party**. Winn-Dixie sat right in the middle of everyone. Everyone came to the **party**, all because of Winn-Dixie.

Chapter 22-26

Vocabulary: prayer, parrot, rain, lost, love

¹Otis came to the party and he brought Gertrude, the **parrot**. She flew off of Otis's shoulder and landed on Winn-Dixie's head. Otis brought his guitar, too. The Preacher said a **prayer** before we ate. Then it started to **rain**. We saved the food, and the decorations. I forgot about Winn-Dixie. He was outside, and probably very scared by the storm. I was so scared for him. Winn-Dixie was outside. He was **lost**. The party stopped all because of Winn-Dixie.

²The Preacher and I went out in the storm to find Winn-Dixie. We looked everywhere. I thought about making a sign to post in the town:

Winn-Dixie – **LOST DOG**

1. Fear of thunderstorms
2. Likes to smile
3. Runs fast
4. Snores
5. Can catch mice
6. Likes to meet people
7. Likes to eat peanut and butter sandwiches
8. Does not like to be alone
9. Likes to sit on couches and sleep in beds
10. Does not mind going to church

³ I memorized these ten things about Winn-Dixie. Just like the ten things the preacher told me about my mom. I was so scared, all because of Winn-Dixie.

⁴The Preacher wanted to stop looking and go back to the party. I was very sad. I told him "No, you always give up." I didn't want to stop looking. I told him he gave up looking for my mom too. I started to cry. The Preacher started to cry. He said he didn't give up on my mom. He said she would not be back. The Preacher said that he couldn't keep my mom at home. He got to keep me and that was the best thing ever! I hugged him. I realized that my dad **loved** me very much, all because of Winn-Dixie.

⁵The Preacher and I went back to the party. When we got there, Otis was playing his guitar. Winn-Dixie was there all along. I was so happy. That night, I went outside and thought about my mom. I missed her and so did the Preacher. I wasn't sad anymore. I had Winn-Dixie. He made me happy. I had new friends, and a new dog. Life was good. I

was happy, all because of Winn-Dixie.