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# Because of Winn-Dixie

By Kate DiCamillo



*Adapted Text*

# LASSI: Unit 1 Elementary Vocabulary and Acquisition – Adapted Text

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The adapted text can be found at <http://coedpages.uncc.edu/access/adaptedbooks.htm>.  
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## Chapters 1- 4

### Vocabulary

Opal                    preacher  
grocery store    Winn-Dixie  
smile                Florida

My 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.

I 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.

After 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.

I 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 Fanny
bear	mouse

Winn-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.

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	

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.

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 Fanny, 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

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

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

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.

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	

Otis 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.

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

After 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.

I 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.

I 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.

We 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            rain  
parrot            lost  
love

Otis 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.

The 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

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.

The 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.

The 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.