

**Because of Winn-Dixie****Kate DiCamillo****Reviewed by: Ziqing Kuang (14)****Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**[www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org)

Ten-year-old Opal and her preacher dad move to a Watley, Florida in the beginning of the book. Opal had an entire life back at home; she had friends, but most of all she misses her mom, who left when she was little. While going to the grocery store, Opal meets a friendly, stray dog who she later names Winn-Dixie. Because of Winn-Dixie's friendly nature, he helps Opal meet some new friends including Miss Franny, a librarian, and a pet shop worker. Opal meets friends at school by swapping adventurous stories about her new life in Watley. Everything is going swimmingly until Winn-Dixie disappears after a thunderstorm. Opal and the entire town try to look for the dog that paved a new life for Opal. Now only did her adventures with Winn-Dixie help her adjust to moving to a different place, Winn-Dixie helped her make new friends and taught her countless life lessons.

I have read this book multiple times since I was in elementary school, and every time I read it, my heart just softens at Opal and Winn-Dixie's friendship. This book was truly so touching and beautiful, and I would recommend it to young readers from the ages of 7-13. I think that dog-lovers would enjoy this book a lot, and young children could learn a lot from this book including factors like bravery, love, and generosity. I would definitely buy this book for a friend, especially a friend who loves dogs and animals.

**Recommended Titles:**

Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo

Tornado by Betsy Byars

Dog Called Kitty by Bill Wallace

Listen by Stephanie S. Tolan

Old Yeller by Fred Gipson