

Novel•Ties

Because of Winn-Dixie

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A Study Guide

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LEARNING LINKS

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of instructional material to use in conjunction with a specific novel. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

NOVEL-TIES are either for whole class instruction using a single title or for group instruction where each group uses a different novel appropriate to its reading level. Depending upon the amount of time allotted to it in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in two to four weeks.

The first step in using NOVEL-TIES is to distribute to each student a copy of the novel and a folder containing all of the duplicated worksheets. Begin instruction by selecting several pre-reading activities in order to set the stage for the reading ahead. Vocabulary exercises for each chapter always precede the reading so that new words will be reinforced in the context of the book. Use the questions on the chapter worksheets for class discussion or as written exercises.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

STORY MAP**Title** _____**Author** _____

Main Characters	Descriptions
India Opal	
The Preacher	
Winn-Dixie	
Miss Franny Block	
Gloria Dump	
Otis	

Plot—Main Events

First, _____

Then, _____

Next, _____

Finally, _____

Theme—Message

This story taught me that _____

Chapters 1–4 (cont.)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you suppose the preacher let India Opal keep the stray dog? What did this show about him?
2. Why do you imagine India Opal talked so much to her new pet?
3. What do you think India Opal learned about her mother from the ten things her father told her? How did this information make her feel about her missing parent?

Literary Devices:

- I. *Simile* — A simile is a figure of speech in which two words are compared using the words “like” or “as.” For example:

Mostly, he looked like a big piece of old brown carpet that had been left out in the rain.

What is being compared?

What does this tell you about the appearance of the stray dog?

- II. *Metaphor* — A metaphor is an implied or suggested comparison. For example:

I could see him [India Opal’s father] pulling his old turtle head back into his stupid turtle shell.

What is being compared?

What does this reveal about India Opal’s father? And what does it reveal about Opal’s feelings about her father?

- III. *Hyperbole* — Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which there is an intentional exaggeration. For example:

She [India Opal’s mother] liked to plant things. She had a talent for it.
She could stick a tire in the ground and grow a car.

Why do you think India Opal’s father used hyperbole?
