

Because of Winn-Dixie

Grades 4-6

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Name: _____

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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.

concerned	display	hollered	cashier	immediately
distracted	sermon	admit	exceptions	specific

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.

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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.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> big | <input type="checkbox"/> tailless | <input type="checkbox"/> tongue hanging out |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wagging tail | <input type="checkbox"/> skinny | <input type="checkbox"/> bald patches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> 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).

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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.
