

# Because of Winn-Dixie

Literacy Unit For Special Education

Preview

Over  
80  
pages



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## Suggestions for Use

- I made this unit to go along with the book, *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo.
- The thought is that you would be reading it aloud to your class at a rate of about 5-10 pages or one chapter per day.
- Be sure to give each student their own copy of the story board (pg. 7-8) to use while reading and discussing the story.
- Benefits of reading out loud, even to classes made up of severely affected students:
  - Teaches students to sit quietly even when there isn't something for them to do. This is such an important life skill. We all have to spend time sitting and listening to someone we are not that interested in at some point.
  - Parents will LOVE you. Not only will they be excited their child is being exposed to age appropriate material, but you are teaching them how to sit quietly, which will hopefully transfer to home as well.
  - Even with your lowest level learners, you will have 1 or 2 that will truly enjoy the story.
  - It can be a calming experience to sit and listen to the teacher read in a methodical way.

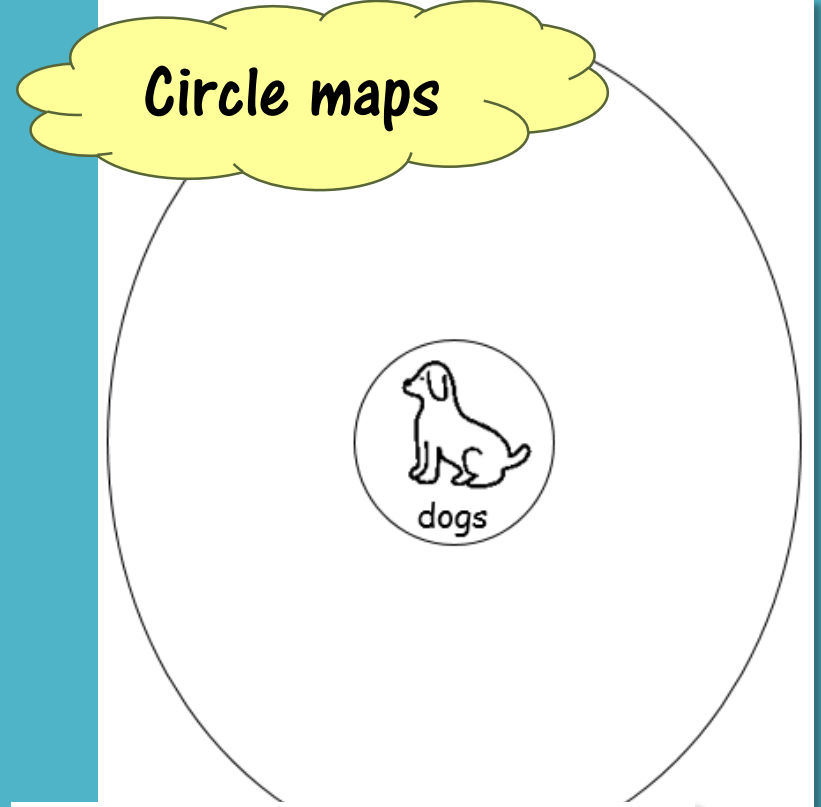
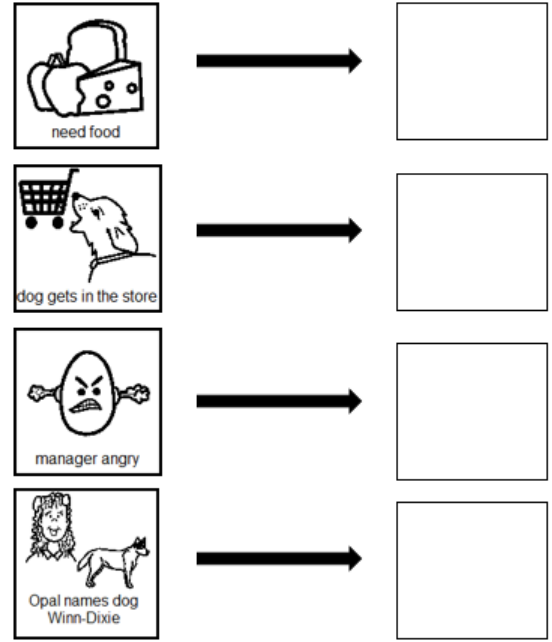
## Suggestions for Use

- For students who need more structure, place the number of post-it notes in front of him/her that corresponds to the number of pages you intend to read. Remove a post-it as you finish each page. The visual will help lessen their anxiety.
- As you finish each chapter, there is an activity for your students to complete.
- Differentiation:
  - For any activity, you can quickly differentiate for your lower level learners by using a color coding technique.
  - If sorting, outline each sorting category a certain color and then outline the corresponding pictures the same color.
  - Becomes a matching task.
- I purposefully did not include an assessment in this unit, because I did not feel that would be the goal of reading a higher level novel over such an extended period of time. Instead, you should be focused on shaping and teaching the behavior of sitting and listening to the teacher.
- Finally, I always ended reading the novel by showing the students the video with popcorn as a treat for finishing the story!!



# Story Board

**Cause and Effect** Certain actions cause things to happen. How did Opal end up with a dog?



# Activities





# Sorting Activities



## Things That Make Me Scared




<input type="checkbox"/>	spiders	storms	swimming
<input type="checkbox"/>	new places	1 <sup>st</sup> day of school	strangers
<input type="checkbox"/>	the dark	loud noises	bright lights
	big dogs	crowds	trucks
	trains	parks	grocery store
	snakes	scratchy clothes	cats
	car rides	riding a bike	riding a horse

# Differentiated

## Things That Make Me Scared

