

Incoming 5th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Book: *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

Purchase Here: <https://a.co/d/8pQNnDc>

Due: First Day of School

Project: Character Body Biography

Google Classroom CODE: s4sl3lja

Get ready to meet a dog who changes everything. In *Because of Winn-Dixie*, you'll explore a heartwarming story about friendship, forgiveness, and the power of unexpected connections. As you read, you'll dive into the life of a character who grows in meaningful ways, and reflect on how our relationships can shape who we become. This project will help you think deeply about character development while using creativity and writing to share what you've learned.

Your assignment is a **Character Body Biography**. This is a creative way to show what you've learned about a character using writing and color.

Important Note

- This is **not an optional assignment**; it is a **required part of your summer work** and **will count as a graded assignment** in your English class. Be sure to complete it thoughtfully and bring it with you on the **first day of school**.
- **Late assignments will lose one full letter grade for each day they are late.**

Instructions

- You will choose **one character** from the book to focus on.
- You will receive a **poster with a body outline and labeled sections** from your teacher.
- Your job is to:
 - **Color the character's body** and make it visually appealing.
 - **Write thoughtful responses** in each of the 12 labeled sections.
- All responses should be written neatly and in complete sentences.

What is a Body Biography?

A **Body Biography** is a full-body poster that shows what's going on **inside** a character (their thoughts, values, fears, goals) and what's visible on the **outside** (how they act, what they wear, how others see them).

Directions:

1. **Choose one character** from *Because of Winn-Dixie*:
 - Opal
 - The Preacher (Opal's father)
 2. Around the body (and inside it), **fill in each of the 12 sections below** using words, quotes, symbols, drawings, and short explanations. **Be neat, colorful, and creative!**
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12 Body Biography Prompts:

1. **Quotes**
Find **3 quotes** from the story that help explain who your character is.
These can be things your character says **or** what other characters say **about** them.
Write each quote on the poster, include **who said it**, and explain **why it matters**.
2. **Values / Beliefs**
What are your character's **best qualities**?
Are they brave? Kind? Loyal? Friendly? Write **at least 2–3 traits** and explain how you know.
3. **Weakness / Flaws**
What are your character's **struggles** or things they're not very good at?
Are they impatient, shy, or angry? Do they keep secrets? Write 1–2 weaknesses and explain them.
4. **Most Important / Loves**
What does your character **care about the most**?
This can be a person (like a parent or friend), a pet, or even a memory.
Show what they love and explain **why** it matters to them.
5. **Inner-Self vs. Outside**
What do other people **see** when they look at this character?
But what is your character **really thinking or feeling inside**?
Show the difference between how the character looks or acts and how they feel deep down.
6. **Wants Control**
What does your character try to **control** or fix in the story?
Do they try to take charge of a situation, make a friend, or stand up for someone?

Give a specific example from the book.

7. **Symbols & Colors**

Choose **2 or 3 objects** or **colors** that represent your character.

For example, a dog collar might symbolize love, or the color blue might show sadness.

Draw or label each symbol and explain what it means.

8. **Goals**

What does your character **want most** in the story?

Are they trying to find friends, connect with someone, or fix something in their life?

Explain their goal and what they do to try and reach it.

9. **Best Accomplishment**

What is your character's **proudest moment** or best achievement?

Show or describe something they do that's important to them or others.

10. **Challenge**

What is getting in the way of your character's goal?

Is it another person, a fear, or something inside themselves?

Explain what the challenge is and how it affects the story.

11. **Physical Appearance**

What are the first things people notice about this character?

Think about their hair, clothes, age, or how they carry themselves.

You can write it down or draw it in your outline.

12. **Dynamic or Static**

Does your character **change** during the story?

If they do, explain how they grow or see things differently by the end.

If they **stay the same**, explain why and give evidence.

Helpful Tips:

- Use **markers, colored pencils, or crayons** — avoid pencil only.
- Keep the poster neat, colorful, and **easy to read**.

Important:

Please do **not** copy from the internet, summaries, or use AI writing tools.