

# Instructional Overview

## Book Club

### Because of Winn-Dixie

By: Kate DiCamillo

Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: R

#### Instructional Focus:

Character Development

#### Background:

As students begin to read chapter books, the comprehension strategies they use should become more sophisticated. Stories are developed through more sophisticated plots, so deep comprehension depends on the readers' ability to sustain comprehension across longer texts. One key skill necessary to sustaining comprehension is the ability to notice the ways in which characters are developed across text.

#### Instructional Overview:

##### Meeting #1

Set Expectations For Book Club and Introduce Character Development

##### Meeting #2

(Chapters 2 – 6) Exploring Indirect and Direct Characterization

##### Meeting #3

(Chapters 7 – 11) Using Dialogue to Infer Character Traits

##### Meeting #4

(Chapters 12 – 16) Understanding How Character Relationships Develop Character

##### Meeting #5

(Chapters 17 – 21) Noticing How Characters Change Over Time

##### Meeting #6

(Chapters 22 – 26) Making Connections with the Characters

Instructional Focus

Description of the  
Instructional Focus

List of Book Club Meetings  
and the Instructional Focus  
for Each Meeting

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#### Materials and Preparation:

- ☐ Determine which students will participate in the *Because of Winn-Dixie* Book Club (4–6 students)
- ☐ Gather copies of *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare copies of the Book Club Calendar (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare copies of the Expectations for Book Club (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare copies of the Book Club Reading Response Board (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare Reader's Notebooks (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare copies of Character Maps (1 per student)
- ☐ Optional: Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)
- ☐ Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)
- ☐ Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)
- ☐ Chart Paper
- ☐ Sticky Notes

List of Materials and Preparation

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