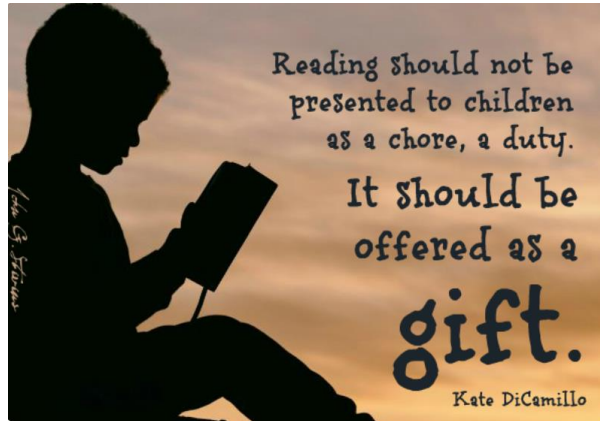


Summer Reading



June 2022

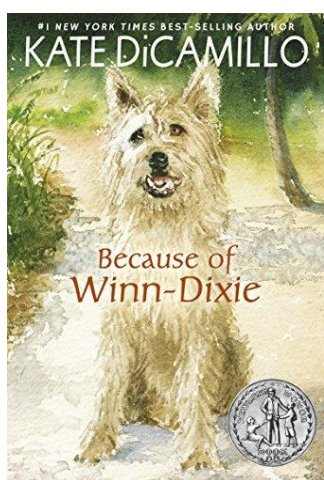
Dear Families of Third Graders,

Students need a strong foundation in reading and writing to reach their full potential. Reading outside of the classroom is critical for maintaining and expanding a child's literacy skills, especially over the extended summer break. Research suggests that students should spend a minimum of 20 minutes a day reading. This could be listening to a book read aloud or practicing their own reading skills. Conversations about each book increase enjoyment and connection to texts.

Timberlane's summer goal is simple: Help students connect with books (both fiction and nonfiction) to grow a love for learning and engagement in texts. This will inspire students to become lifelong readers. To this end, we are gifting each student with a book that we hope will be read and reread over the summer.

Students at each grade level, returning to our elementary schools next year, are receiving a book by the author Kate DiCamillo. If you have children in multiple grades, encourage them to share similarities and differences in the books she writes.

Incoming Fourth Graders are receiving:



Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo.

One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries – and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.

With the book comes the expectation that your child will read the book during the summer months. This summer please use it as an independent reading opportunity or shared as a read aloud. Have ongoing conversation about what is happening in the book and what your child thinks about that.

At the start of the school year, expect your child's teacher to follow up with lessons and activities based upon this beautifully written book. Below you will find author information and optional activities to support reading.

Happy Reading!

One way to share and celebrate reading is to visit local bookstores or libraries and peruse selections. Be sure to check out local area library schedules for events occurring during the summer months!

Atkinson <https://kimballlibrary.com/>
Danville <https://colbymemoriallibrary.org/>
Sandown <https://www.sandownlibrary.us/>
Plaistow <https://www.plaistowlibrary.com/>

Below are some optional activities to go with your summer reading book, *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo.

- Visit <https://www.katedicamillo.com/> to find out more about the author, Kate DiCamillo.
- Visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZ4zr_UKCjA to hear the first 2 chapters of *Because of Winn-Dixie* read aloud. You can follow along with the text.
- Create a collage or poster of a character from *Because of Winn-Dixie*. Include a drawing or sketch of the character and phrases or sentences that describe the characters physical appearance, personality traits, and behaviors. Add some of your favorite quotes for the book about the character.
- Kate DiCamillo often uses similes to describe her characters. A *simile* is when an author compares two things that are usually not alike. Similes use *like* or *as* to make the comparison. On page 5, Ms. DiCamillo writes that Winn-Dixie “looked *like* a big piece of old brown carpet that had been left out in the rain.” As you read *Because of Winn-Dixie*, keep your eyes out for other similes. Keep a list.
- What does Opal learn about friendship? What did you learn about friendship from reading *Because of Winn-Dixie*?

Kate DiCamillo

Kate DiCamillo's writing journey has been a truly remarkable one. She grew up in Florida and moved to Minnesota in her twenties, when homesickness and a bitter winter led her to write *Because of Winn-Dixie* — her first published novel, which became a runaway bestseller and snapped up a Newbery Honor. *The Tiger Rising*, her second novel, was also set in Florida and went on to become a National Book Award finalist. Since then, the best-selling author has explored settings as varied as a medieval castle and a magician's theater while continuing to enjoy great success, winning two Newbery Medals and being named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. She now has almost 30 million books in print worldwide.

Now, for the first time ever, Kate DiCamillo is returning to the world of a previous novel to tell us more about a character whom her fans already know and love. In *Louisiana's Way Home*, set two years after the events of National Book Award finalist *Raymie Nightingale*, she picks up the story of Raymie's friend Louisiana Elefante, who uncovers difficult truths about her past — and makes choices that will determine her future.

Kate DiCamillo's books' themes of hope and belief amid impossible circumstances and their messages of shared humanity and connectedness have resonated with readers of all ages around the world. In her instant #1 New York Times bestseller *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, a haughty china rabbit undergoes a profound transformation after finding himself face down on the ocean floor — lost and waiting to be found. *The Tale of Despereaux* — the Newbery Medal-winning novel that later inspired an animated adventure from Universal Pictures — stars a tiny mouse with exceptionally large ears who is driven by love to become an unlikely hero. *The Magician's Elephant*, an acclaimed and exquisitely paced fable, dares to ask the question *What if?* And Kate DiCamillo's second Newbery Medal winner, *Flora & Ulysses*, was released in 2013 to great acclaim, garnering five starred reviews and an instant spot on the New York Times bestseller list.

Born in Philadelphia but raised in the South, Kate DiCamillo now lives in Minneapolis, where she faithfully writes two pages a day, five days a week.

