

# BECAUSE OF WINN DIXIE

A NEW MUSICAL

# PLOT SYNOPSIS

**TIME PERIOD:** Present Day **PLACE:** Naomi, Florida

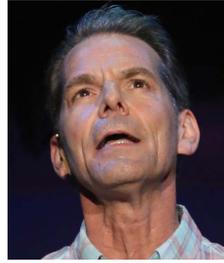
## CAST OF CHARACTERS



Winn Dixie



Opal



Preacher



Franny Block



Otis



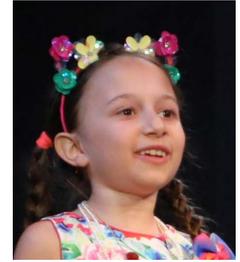
Gloria Dump



Callie Thomas



Jiggs Thomas



Sweetie Pie Thomas



Jeanne Dewberry



Stevie Dewberry



Dunlap Dewberry



Millie Wilkinson



Carl Wilkinson



Amanda Wilkinson



Townsperson



Townsperson

## ACT 1

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### SCENE 1: Trailer / Winn Dixie Grocery Store

A large, scruffy dog searches for food outside. Opal and the Preacher arrive at their new home which doesn't impress Opal. She laments her new life and wishes to return to her old home. She goes grocery shopping and is accused of bringing the dog into the store. The dog follows Opal when she names him "Winn Dixie" so she brings him home.

**Song:** "Strays"

 **Watch For:** Dog barking, yelling

### SCENE 2: Trailer

While Opal is at the store, Preacher cleans up the mess from inside the trailer as he sings about his frustration with his family's situation.

**Song:** "Offer It Up"

### SCENE 3: Trailer

Opal enters the trailer with Winn Dixie, but the Preacher says she cannot keep him. Opal remembers her old home and wishes the Preacher would explain to her why they left. The Preacher hears Opal telling this to Winn Dixie, so he guiltily decides that they can keep Winn Dixie.

**Songs:** "Awoo"

### SCENE 4: Open Arms Baptist Church

The Preacher meets the Wilkinsons, the Thomases, the Dewberrys, and Miss Franny as they enter the church for service and a potluck. Opal attempts to bring Winn Dixie into the church, but the Preacher instructs her to leave him outside. The Preacher begins the church service, but Winn Dixie barks until the Preacher agrees to let Opal bring him in. The service is able to finish peacefully as the congregation prays for outcasts.

**Song:** "Raise Your Voice" & "O Lord of Pilgrims"

 **Watch For:** Dog barking

### SCENE 5: Open Arms Baptist Church

After the service, everyone samples the potluck meal and exits. The Preacher expresses his disdain for Winn Dixie's barking to Opal. She asks the Preacher to give the dog another chance and decides to buy him a collar to help him behave.

**Song:** "Offer It Up Reprise"

### SCENE 6: To the Pet Store

On the way to the pet store, Opal runs into the Dewberry boys and Sweetie Pie. The boys tell Opal how their dad left their mother for a new girlfriend. The boys and Sweetie Pie warn Opal not to go into the pet store and tell her rumors that the owner, Otis, is violent and crazy. Opal ignores their warnings and asks Otis for a collar. Upon learning that she cannot afford the collar, Opal offers to work for Otis to pay for it. Otis accepts her offer. Winn Dixie runs off when thunder sounds, so Opal and the other kids chase after him.

**Song:** "Ballad of the Crazy Pet Store Man"

 **Watch For:** Yelling, thunder, a dog chase, and animal noises

### SCENE 7: Manwaring Road

Opal, the Dewberry boys, and Sweetie Pie chase Winn Dixie in the thunderstorm all the way to Miss Gloria's home. The other kids warn Opal not to approach Gloria since she might be a witch. They notice Gloria's eerie tree of moaning bottles. Opal ignores their worries and enters Gloria's yard.

 **Watch For:** Thunder, a dog chase, spooky cackling

### SCENE 8: Gloria Dump's

The kids find Gloria being licked by Winn Dixie. Gloria tells them about her past life as a heavy drinker. The Dewberry boys and Sweetie Pie run off, but Opal stays with Winn Dixie and Gloria. Gloria explains how she writes down all her sins and hangs them in bottles on her tree. Opal decides to return to Gloria's house to hang a note for her mother.

**Song:** "Bottle Tree Blues"

### SCENE 9: Trailer

Opal returns home to see Jeanne Dewberry exiting the trailer after bringing the Preacher a cake. Opal and the Preacher discuss Opal's pessimistic attitude about her new community. Opal begrudgingly agrees to try to make friends.

## SCENE 10: Outside the Trailer

Opal attempts to make friends with the Dewberry boys. The Preacher is pleased at Opal's attempts. As time passes, Opal & Winn Dixie have fun playing with the Dewberry boys and Sweetie Pie. On their way to Gloria's house, the kids run into an annoyed Amanda who has her head in a book. The kids hear thunder and reluctantly decide to follow Amanda to the library to avoid the storm.

**Song:** "Summer"

## SCENE 11: The Library

Opal, the Dewberry boys, Sweetie Pie, and Amanda enter the library where the librarian, Miss Franny, is working. Miss Franny agrees to let Winn Dixie and the kids stay if they join story time. Miss Franny tells them how a bear once walked into her library and took her copy of *Gone with the Wind*. They hear the storm and Winn Dixie hides in the library. After the storm passes, Opal & Winn Dixie go to her job at the pet store.

**Song:** "Summer Reprise"



**Watch For:** Thunder

## SCENE 12: Pet Store

At the pet store, Otis is trying to write a song on his guitar. Opal helps Otis write some lyrics. Opal tells Otis about her mother's drinking problem and he recounts his troubled childhood. He assures her that no situation is black and white and Opal bids him farewell for the day.

**Songs:** "Searchin'" and "You Can't Run"

## SCENE 13: Trailer / Pet Store

Opal returns home where the Preacher confronts her about her secret job at the pet store, forcing her to quit. Opal angrily brings up the topic of her mother and tells the Preacher that she doesn't want to be protected. Otis reflects on the fact that he can't escape his past.

**Song:** "You Can't Run"



**Watch For:** Yelling

## ACT 2

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### SCENE 1: Families' Dinner Tables

The Preacher, the Dewberrys, the Wilkinsons, and the Thomases sit for dinner. The kids sulk about the loss of Opal's pet store job.

**Song:** "Sulking"

### SCENE 2: The Library

Opal enters the library with Winn Dixie where she finds Amanda and Franny. Opal accuses Amanda of snitching to the Preacher about her pet store job. Franny stops their fight by telling the girls about her great grandfather, Littmus W. Block, who created the Littmus Lozenge candy. The girls try the candy and find that it reminds them of sad memories. Amanda remembers how her brother drowned because no one was watching him. Amanda and Opal walk to Gloria's so that they can each write notes to hang up on her bottle tree.

**Song:** "No One Watching"

### SCENE 3: Gloria Dump's

Opal and Amanda arrive at Gloria's house and begin to write their letters. Gloria informs the girls that there is no room for "shoulda's" in bottle notes, only feelings.

### SCENE 4: Gloria Dump's / Trailer

Opal and Amanda hang their bottle notes on Gloria's tree. Jeanne brings the Preacher another dessert and he tells her to stop taking the trouble when she has two boys at home. They discuss their loneliness and how they're managing it. Opal walks in on them. Jeanne leaves and Opal angrily confronts the Preacher. The Preacher sends Opal to bed and puts Winn Dixie in the yard. The townspeople note that life isn't a fairytale. A storm scares Winn Dixie and he escapes into the night.

**Songs:** "I Know Lonely" & "Maybe You Forgot"



**Watch For:** Dog barking, yelling, thunder, lightning

### SCENE 5: Pet Store

Opal enters the pet store, looking for Winn Dixie in the storm. She recruits Amanda, the Dewberry boys, Sweetie Pie, and Otis to help her search.

**Song:** "Searchin'"



**Watch For:** Thunder

### **SCENE 6: Woods around Town**

Opal and the kids search for Winn Dixie in the woods. Their mothers search for the kids.

**Song:** “Searchin”

 **Watch For: Thunder**

### **SCENE 7: The Library**

Gloria and Franny have a stand-off outside the library. Franny refuses to let Gloria in because she believes Gloria to be a drunken menace. When Franny learns that Gloria needs to use the library phone to call the Preacher about Opal, she allows Gloria inside.

**Song:** “Searchin”

 **Watch For: Loud yelling**

### **SCENE 8: Pick it Quick**

Opal and the kids enter the Pick it Quick to find their relieved parents, Franny, and Gloria. Otis joins their search party after he explains how he went to jail. Opal and the Preacher convince the others to help them continue looking for Winn Dixie.

### **SCENE 9: The Woods**

Dunlap stresses the importance of finding Winn Dixie since he’s made the summer fun. The Thomases ask the Wilkinsons for parenting advice, and a distraught Millie tells them about her drowned son. Amanda hears her mother’s sorrows and asks that they talk with each other more. The Preacher sends everyone to Gloria’s house and tells Opal that they should stop looking for Winn Dixie. Opal accuses him of always giving up and references how he didn’t stop her mother from leaving them. The Preacher tells Opal that her mother left because she was an alcoholic. The two make peace and head to Gloria’s house.

**Song:** “Thirteen Things”

 **Watch For: Thunder, yelling**

### **SCENE 10: Gloria Dump’s**

The search party dries off at Gloria’s and they express their gratitude for what they have in life. Winn Dixie hears them singing. Opal calls him and they reunite. Everyone dances together, then exits the stage, leaving a happy Opal with Winn Dixie.

**Song:** “What I Got is You”

 **Watch For: A dog in the aisle**