

## Short Read 1

Remember  
to annotate  
as you read.

# Here, Boy

An excerpt from *Because of Winn-Dixie*

by Kate DiCamillo

### Notes

A girl named  
Opal goes to  
a  
supermarket  
and  
discovers a  
mess being  
made and  
employees  
running  
around  
upset.

*In Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal Buloni has just relocated with her father, who is a preacher, to a small town in Florida. In the following passage from chapter 1, Opal goes to the supermarket to buy macaroni and cheese, but she returns home with much more. From that day on, her life begins to change in important ways as she learns about the value of friendship and community, compassion and forgiveness.*

- 1 At first, I didn't see a dog. There were just a lot of vegetables rolling around on the floor, tomatoes and onions and green peppers. And there was what seemed like a whole army of Winn-Dixie employees running around waving their arms just the same way the store manager was waving his.
- 2 And then the dog came running around the corner. He was a big dog. And ugly. And he looked like he was having a real good time. His tongue was hanging out and he was wagging his tail. He **skidded** to a stop and smiled right at me. I had never before in my life seen a dog smile, but that is what he did. He pulled back his lips and showed me all his teeth. Then he wagged his tail so hard that he knocked some oranges off a display, and they went rolling everywhere, mixing in with the tomatoes and onions and green peppers.
- 3 The manager screamed, "Somebody grab that dog!"



Realistic Fiction

### Notes

- 4 The dog went running over to the manager, wagging his tail and smiling. He stood up on his hind legs. You could tell that all he wanted to do was get face to face with the manager and thank him for the good time he was having in the produce department, but somehow he ended up knocking the manager over. And the manager must have been having a bad day, because lying there on the floor, right in front of everybody, he started to cry. The dog leaned over him, real concerned, and licked his face.
- 5 "Please," said the manager. "Somebody call the pound."
- 6 "Wait a minute!" I hollered. "That's my dog. Don't call the pound."
- 7 All the Winn-Dixie employees turned around and looked at me, and I knew I had done something big. And maybe stupid, too. But I couldn't help it. I couldn't let that dog go to the pound.
- 8 "Here, boy," I said.

Opal sees a dog  
running wild,  
knocking things  
over. When the  
manager asks  
someone to call  
the pound, Opal  
decides to save  
the dog by  
claiming the dog is  
hers.