*Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Raymie Nightingale* by Kate Dicamillo
Pick any 10 questions to complete. Alternative project at the end.

1. Raymie’s father left her and her mother. She believes that if she wins the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition he will come home. Do you think she is right?

1. Louisiana says that everything, absolutely everything, depends on you. Raymie knows this is true and feels her soul expand. Is this a true statement? Why does Raymie feel this way?

1. Borkowski says people let their souls shrivel, but doesn’t explain how they do this. How do you believe people let their souls shrivel?

1. Beverly says that fear is a waste of time. She claims she is not afraid of anything. Do you agree with her?

1. Beverly asks Raymie to tell her a secret. Raymie shares that her father has left her and her mother. This secret seems to make Beverly angry, and she starts beating the gravel with her baton. Why is she so upset?

1. Staphopoulos, Raymie’s swimming instructor, asks the question, “Are you a problem causer or a problem solver?” Which characters do you believe to be problem causers and which are problem solvers?

1. When Mr. Staphopoulos moved, he said good-bye to Raymie. Why are these words so important?

1. Do you believe that Raymie’s mother, in Louisiana’s words, is too terrified to go on?

1. Why do you think Raymie chooses *A Bright and Shining Path: The Life of Florence Nightingale* to bring to read at the nursing home? Why do you think the school librarian, Mr. Option, gave it to her?

1. Raymie often has the feeling that she will finally understand things, that some great truth is going to be revealed. She believes that the feeling has never really panned out. Why?

1. In the Golden Glen nursing home, Isabelle claims that good deeds are pointless. Are they? What about Raymie’s good deeds up to this point? Revisit this question at the end of the book.

1. Why does Raymie want to get her book back? Why not just leave it at Golden Glen?

1. Are wishes dangerous?

1. Why is it so surprising during the return visit at Golden Glen to see Beverly holding the hand of Alice Nebbley and humming?

1. Louisiana releases a small yellow bird. Why? Was this the extra good deed she believes it to be or not?

1. Why isn’t Raymie afraid when riding in the car with Louisiana’s grandmother?

1. When we learn that Beverly is also fatherless, Louisiana’s grandmother says to beware the brokenhearted. Why do you think she makes this statement?

1. What makes Raymie agree to get Archie from the Very Friendly Animal Center? Why is it so important for Louisiana to make up for her betrayal?

1. When Raymie, Louisiana, and Beverly go to the Very Friendly Animal Center, the woman explains that cats are put down soon after they arrive, yet Louisiana refuses to believe the cat is dead. Why can’t she accept this? And why, even though they believe it to be true, do Raymie and Beverly agree to break in at night and rescue Archie?

1. When she spends the night at Raymie’s house, Louisiana makes up her own version of *A Bright and Shining Path: The Life of Florence Nightingale*. In Louisiana’s rendition, Florence Nightingale carries a magic globe filled with wishes, hope, and love. This is how she sees to help the wounded soldiers. If someone steals the magic globe, Florence will be just wandering through the darkness. During the story Raymie falls asleep and dreams of Mrs. Borkowski who tells Raymie that Archie isn’t dead. What do you think of the story? What about the dream?

1. When they pass the Golden Glen on the way to the Very Friendly Animal Center, they hear beautiful, sad music being played on the piano. They see the bird Louisiana rescued and see the janitor looking out the window when he hears the bird sing. The two sing to each other. Why does this incident fill Raymie with happiness?

1. When they get to the Very Friendly Animal Center (and manage to break in), there are no cats there. Instead they come across a very mangy, unhappy dog. Louisiana decides to rescue him, even though he isn’t Archie. Why does she rescue the dog?

1. After pushing Louisiana in the shopping cart, the cart starts careening down the hill uncontrollably. Raymie hears Mrs. Borkowski voice telling her she can do this. Why this? Why now?

1. After Louisiana’s near drowning, Raymie is Raymie Nightingale. Why this name?

1. Two “miracles” happen after Raymie’s rescue. What were they? What do you think about Raymie’s response, especially to the second incident?

1. Talk a little bit about the relationship between Raymie, Louisiana, and Beverly. Compare and contrast the three girls.

Alternative Project

Pick one to complete.

1.Raymie believes that learning to twirl a baton is a way to win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition. Do you know how to twirl? If not, set up a baton lesson with some friends. You can find videos online on how to twirl and throw them.

2.For Raymie and her friends, reading to the elderly at the nursing home is an act of kindness, a good deed to put down in their applications for the competition. Have you ever read to someone? Try it! Find someone you would like to read to, whether a pet, a friend, a younger sibling, or someone elderly. Choose a book that you think your listener would like, practice reading it out loud, and offer to read to your selected listener for twenty to thirty minutes.

3.Raymie gained a great deal of confidence from taking a lifesaving class—something that everyone could benefit from. Classes in junior lifesaving as well as CPR or first aid/defibrillator training are a great opportunity to gain important life skills. Find a class in your community or at your school and sign up for it with your friends.

 Questions and Projects from Candlewick.com & twobookworms.blog.wordpress.com