This week your child is reading *Because of Winn-Dixie*, a story that tells about how a dog helps a girl and a librarian become friends.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Ask your child to name some qualities that make a good friend. Then take turns telling why each of you would make a good friend. Use some of these words.

- comfort
- mood
- positive
- peculiar
- talent

**Movie Time**  Like many popular books for children, *Because of Winn-Dixie* was made into a movie. Name a favorite movie that your child has seen. Then talk about the problem that the characters in the movie had and how they solved their problem. Challenge your child to name other ways the characters could have solved their problem.

**Breaking the Rules!**  The librarian in the story breaks a library rule by allowing a girl’s dog to come inside. Why would a library have a rule about dogs? What are some other important rules that libraries have? Discuss these questions with your child. Also consider exceptions to the rules, such as the need for people to use guide dogs in public places.

**Challenge**  Help your child write a list of rules for your local library.
**Running Into a Bear**  The librarian in the story tells about an encounter she had with a bear. Read and discuss the following tips with your child.

**Bear Tips**

What should you do if you run into a bear in the woods? These tips from wildlife experts might help make such an encounter a safe one.

1. **Remain calm.** Avoid sudden movements.
2. **Give the bear plenty of room.** Do not make direct eye contact.
3. **Don’t get between a mother bear and her cubs.**
4. **Never run from a bear.** Running may make a bear want to chase you.
5. **Never feed or toss food to a bear.**
6. **Don’t climb a tree.** Most bears know how to climb.

**Keeping the Wild in Wildlife** Together, discuss ways that people can be respectful of wildlife. You may want to look for websites, such as the National Wildlife Federation’s website, that tell about how people can share our world with wild animals.

**Book Links**

- *Friendship According to Humphrey*, by Betty G. Birney
- *Home of the Brave*, by Katherine Applegate  **CHALLENGE**

**Internet Challenge** Together, find a website that tells about bears. Look for facts that tell about bears that live or used to live in your area. Learn a few interesting facts about the bears.