

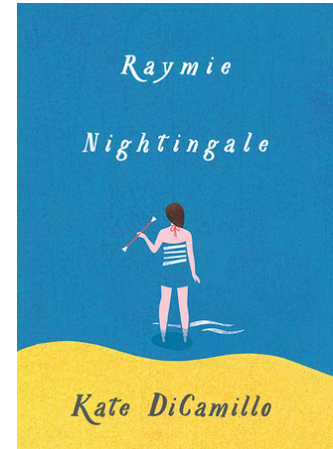


Kids Book Club Kit | Darien Library

Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo

Recommended for grades 4 to 6

Summary: Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton; she also has to contend with the wispy, frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition approaches, loneliness, loss, and unanswerable questions draw the three girls into an unlikely friendship — and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways.



Discussion Questions:

1. What role does friendship play in the lives of Raymie, Louisiana, and Beverly?
2. Friendships and relationships can transform lives. What are some of the life-changing transformations that take place in the story as a result of friendship?
3. What three words would you use to describe Raymie? Louisiana? Beverly? Describe how the traits of these characters come to life in the book.
4. Who do you think is the most hopeful character in the story? What passages describe this person's hopefulness? Who else is hopeful?
5. A question that echoes throughout *Raymie Nightingale* is "What is life all about?" Does the story give us answers?

Further Resources:

About the author: <https://dar.to/2rfSPeg>

Host a Raymie Nightingale Event: <https://dar.to/2QFR6d8>

Activities

1. Raymie is intrigued by the lantern held aloft on the cover of *A Bright and Shining Path: The Life of Florence Nightingale*. Make paper lanterns and decorate the room.
2. Raymie must do good deeds to put on her contest application to prove that she is the candidate to win. Think about where you could volunteer or help your community. Then pick a day with your friends and go out and volunteer!