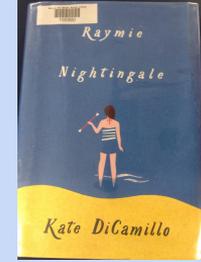


Title: Raymie Nightingale

Author: Kate DiCamillo

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Reviewed by: Mrs. Arnold



Summary: Raymie desperately wants to be crowned Little Miss Central Florida Tire 1975 so her father who ran away with a dental hygienist would see her in the newspaper and come home. In order to do this she wants to learn how to twirl a baton. At these lessons, she meets up with Beverly Tapinski and Louisiana Elfante who are also going to enter this contest. Louisiana wants to win to bring her cat Archie home and Beverly just wants to sabotage it. They become friends because they soon realize that they have lots in common. Beverly's father lives in New York City and Louisiana's parents died in boating accident. After the first adventure of retrieving a lost library book (Florence Nightingale) from the Golden Glen Nursing Home, they decided on saving Archie from the Very Friendly Animal Center. After Beverly picked the lock they realized there were no cats at the center, they grabbed the first animal they saw, a dog, and went back home. Beverly and Raymie put Louisiana and the dog in a shopping cart to push them home but the shopping cart somehow got away from them. The shopping cart landed in the pond and Raymie saved Louisiana from drowning. Raymie did get her picture in the paper but not from the contest, for saving Louisiana's life. In the end, Archie the cat found them in the hospital while Louisiana was recuperating and Louisiana won the contest.

Opinion: The story of these three girls was funny, action packed, and emotional. In the end, the girls realized they would be there for each other when the adults in their life wouldn't be. True friends help each other no matter what is the main theme. The book can be emotional at points when you learn about Louisiana's parents being dead or Raymie's and Beverly's father is gone. It's funny when they are trying to get a missing library book back and Louisiana's bunny barrettes.

Recommendation: I recommend this book to any 5th or 6th grader who is looking for a light read and who likes realistic fiction. There are no big words or complex themes, just the story of three friends who learn to trust each other and become the best of friends. This book would be a great read for a long weekend.