

# Ferris

AUTHOR

**KATE DICAMILLO**



**SCIS:** 5485310

**ISBN:** 9781760659240

**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Mid Primary

## SYNOPSIS

The masterful Kate DiCamillo has outdone herself with a hilarious and achingly real love story about a girl, a ghost, a grandmother and growing up.

It's the summer before fifth grade, and for Ferris Wilkey, it is a summer of sheer pandemonium. Her little sister, Pinky, has vowed to become an outlaw. Uncle Ted has left Aunt Shirley and, to Ferris's mother's chagrin, is holed up in the Wilkey basement to paint a history of the world. And Charisse, Ferris's grandmother, has started seeing a ghost in the doorway to her room—which seems like an alarming omen given that she is feeling unwell. But the ghost is not there to usher Charisse to the Great Beyond. Rather, she has other plans—wild, impractical, illuminating plans. How can Ferris satisfy a spectre with Pinky terrorising the town, Uncle Ted sending Ferris to spy on her aunt, and her father battling an invasion of raccoons?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kate DiCamillo is one of America's most beloved storytellers, author of *The Tale of Despereaux* and *Flora and Ulysses*, both of which have been awarded the prestigious Newbery Medal; *Because of Winn-Dixie*, which received a Newbery Honor; *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, which won a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award; and the hugely popular trilogy of stories about the Three Rancheros: *Raymie Nightingale*, *Louisiana's Way Home* and *Beverly, Right Here*. Born in Philadelphia, she grew up in Florida and now lives in Minneapolis, USA, where she faithfully writes two pages a day, five days a week.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author
  - The publisher
  - The blurb.
- Based on the title only, what do you think this story is about? Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? Did your ideas change after seeing the cover?
  - How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.

- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
  - Write your own story using the title of the book.
- Look at the front cover, read the blurb on the back to gather clues and use any prior knowledge you may have to predict some events that might happen in this story.

### WHILE READING

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in *Ferris*?  
Eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification, etc.
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?