

Raymie Nightingale Event Kit

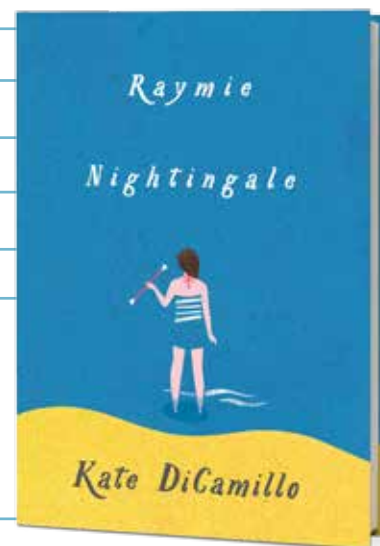
Greetings!

Raymie Nightingale, the new middle-grade novel from *New York Times* best-selling author Kate DiCamillo, brings together three girls to navigate the unanswerable questions of growing up and to discover the best remedy for loneliness and loss—one another. A book release is always a good reason to have a party, and this masterful, moving story of an unforgettable summer friendship is a great one to celebrate.

This kit provides ideas for planning your own *Raymie Nightingale*-themed gathering, complete with reproducible activity sheets for guests, interactive projects and crafts, and community outreach and engagement initiatives. There are also “Do Good Deeds” pages to share with younger guests, offering suggestions for how they can give back to their communities in their own ways.

From starting a themed book club to planning a special read-aloud, the possibilities for an amazing *Raymie Nightingale* event at your school, library, or bookstore are endless. Use the social media hashtag #raymie to document your event and showcase the creative ways that you share *Raymie Nightingale* with patrons, students, family, and friends.

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Flex Your Toes and Isolate Your Objectives

Use this to-do list to plan your Raymie Nightingale event!

A white, wavy-edged to-do list template with 15 horizontal lines and a red square checkbox on the left side of each line.

Throw Your Own Reading Rancheros Party

Whether you're celebrating the launch of Raymie Nightingale, planning a special event, or hosting a holiday reading kickoff party, here are a few ideas for planning a memorable gathering for everyone.

Be crafty.

The theme of friendship is central to Raymie Nightingale—and what better craft to celebrate the importance of good friends than making friendship bracelets? Supply multicolored thread or yarn (available at craft stores) and easy-to-follow instructions to braid or knot bracelets. Invite guests to make their own bracelets or pair up to make matching ones with friends.

Share some colorful snacks.

Raymie loves seeing the gigantic jar of candy corn on the desk of Mrs. Sylvester, the secretary at her father's insurance company. In honor of Raymie's favorite treat, offer candy corn and other color-coordinated snacks (such as clementines, bananas, or marshmallows) at your event.

Learn something new.

Raymie takes baton lessons as a way to win a contest and meets two lasting friends along the way. Consider teaching baton twirling to guests during your event. They'll be surprised how much fun it is to twirl a baton once they get the hang of it. Look for inexpensive batons online, as well as videos on how to twirl and throw them. If you are unsure where to start, try checking out the World Baton Twirling Federation (www.wbtf.org) or the United States Twirling Association (www.ustwirling.com).

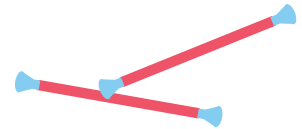
Interactive Event Ideas and Hands-On Activities

Host a talent show.

Raymie and her friends Louisiana and Beverly are taking baton-twirling lessons to prepare for the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition. In honor of the determined trio, hold your own talent show to showcase the talented members of your community.

First, select a time and place at your store, your school, or your library. At least one week before the event, post sign-up sheets in an open location. You might want to offer prizes, such as gift cards to local businesses or copies of *Raymie Nightingale* or other books by Kate DiCamillo. Ask your staff to serve as judges or consider inviting local authors and media guests to participate.

Most importantly, encourage all participants to have fun! Performing can be scary for some, but when contestants are supportive of one another like the Rancheros are in *Raymie Nightingale*, camaraderie can go a long way toward bolstering confidence and bringing people together.



Build a Rancheros friendship photo booth.

Build your own photo booth for your *Raymie Nightingale* event. All you need is a blank wall (or a sheet to create a blank wall), props, and a selfie stick. Have guests use their phones to take pictures with their friends posing with *Raymie Nightingale*-themed props, such as batons and bunny barrettes. Then invite them to tag their pictures on social media, including a hashtag for your store or other venue as well as #raymie. Collect the photos after the event to create a photo wall.

Interactive Event Ideas and Hands-On Activities

Create paper lanterns.

Raymie is intrigued by the lantern held aloft on the cover of *A Bright and Shining Path: The Life of Florence Nightingale*. In honor of Raymie's favorite heroine, invite guests to make their own paper lanterns, following the steps below.

Materials

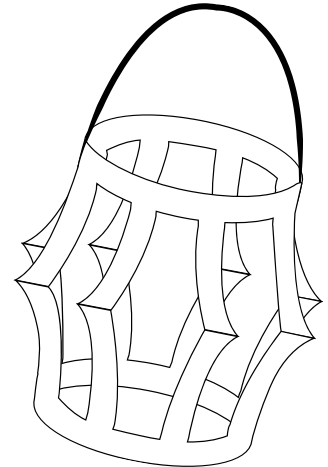
Construction paper

Scissors

Decorations (crayons, markers, stickers, etc.)

Scotch tape

Twine



- Fold a piece of construction paper in half so that the two longer sides line up.
- Cut seven or eight evenly spaced lines into the paper from the folded edge to about an inch from the other end. (You may provide precut construction paper for guests.)
- Decorate the lantern using crayons, markers, stickers, or other items.
- Unfold the paper and wrap it in the other direction, so the shorter ends touch. Secure them with tape to form a circular lantern shape.
- Attach the ends of a strip of construction paper or a length of twine to either side of the top of the lantern to form a handle. (You may provide guests with precut strips of paper or twine for this purpose.)
- Display the lanterns by stringing them across the room.

Raymie Nightingale Reproducible Activities

Crossword

Choose from the following list of words to fill in the crossword:

canary

candy corn

contest

deed

flex

hope

lantern

objective

sabotage

soul

sunshine

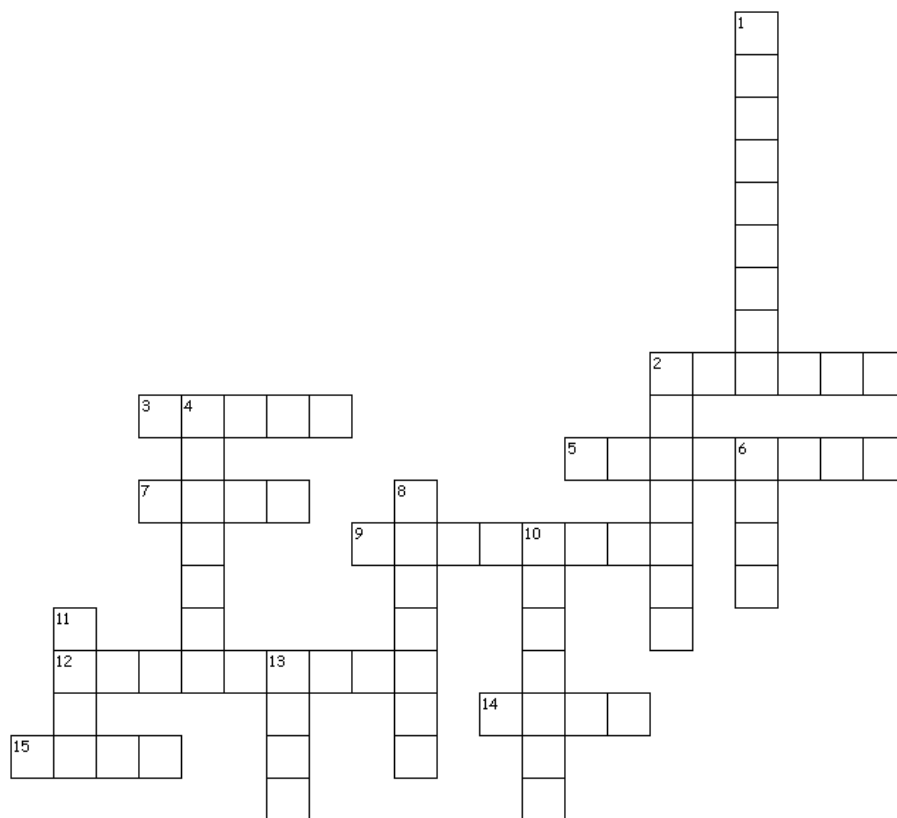
tire

twirl

trapeze

tuna

whistle



Across

- yellow bird in the finch family
- to rotate rapidly, like a baton
- warm rays from the sky
- band of rubber on a wheel that forms a tread
- deliberate destruction or disruption
- purpose or goal
- an exploit or achievement; feat
- to bend

Down

- orange, yellow, and white Halloween candy
- a competition
- sound produced with pursed lips
- to believe, desire, or trust
- a portable light
- a circus apparatus
- the spiritual part of humans
- canned fish

Raymie Nightingale Reproducible Activities

Word Search

TRUSTWORTHY
RANCHEROS
BEVERLY
HONEST
BRAVE

FLORENCE
CONFIDANT
COMFORT
ARCHIE
COMPANION

FAITHFUL
LISTEN
LIFESAVER
RAYMIE
SUPPORT

TALENT
RESCUE
PROTECT
LOUISIANA
BUNNY

Y G B K S R L R W P M H C F S Y S L P R O T E C T V Y G N P
K H Y P C B U V K E J L O W O K E C I A R N V V O D N J O S
E I T Y U G H R Y D W M T N R C B F N F G D T X H R I T F V
J I L R I L P O R Y V Z R I E G N M J U E T D K W N J L A M
M K K W O C P V R K P L O K H S B U N N Y S H S J F Z P J K
W U M K H W R N J D Y O F N C E T O L L Y F A X K I S Z S A
H N N K S U T K C X P U M E N P E I M L C V F V H O V M A Z
V U L D N R E S E B F I O T A L S V S B D R P L E T S T H U
L U F H T I A F U G S S C S R T R L T Z E H L M F R W C O U
V G E E I D S C V R V I H N E M M Y F Q N L A P R B D Q S U
R F S R L P N O F O T A L N V S I E P Q A B G B A N V U U S
C O V P R S D Y I W K N Z S F C B F Q G N D K X Z X Z M Q B
C O M P A N I O N F C A O H V C E Z X J M C C T G S G N X J
M K T L Q V C Y L R O T P Z U V N D L T B K C P N F C S S F
O E A K U F W O D W M X W L A U F O Q T P W K A Y E O O D E
P M U M C B R D G K N S X R W F O V N T R C V K D R L J U B
Y Q C D X E H T K Q Y R B N C M O A N F Z U S D S G U A Z H
N E L I N L S B A T O L M A H V D P W J B W L R L B B M T H
E G O C H T Y O N L T R N R Z I P J S H L O Z C L S N X H Q
Q B E G Q F T E E T B Y Z Q F U P G L B D A I C M D X R T L
R J W P W G G U W X P E L N Z U T I H K L Y Q A T R Q Z P L
Q C D F G R N H Y I L U O R Y X P G R F I I D G M J Q F L H
Y F Z H E F T G Z Y O C H Z E Z O E R Q J O H Z F X A W Q O
P P F U E R J N A E M S E N Q V I E A F T Y T P P S Z I B I
F R I Y O E I M Y A R E F G F T E X R G Y K J S I I U C T T
X B Y P Z U R Q O N Q R O R N V V B C U U G F Y Q A E K N T
S Q P I C T P N O N C Y Q J O T B W H X K M Z V C E P E P F
I U U U T L H C S G I U I N E O P I I E M I A Y D U K J A R
S M H C Z Z Z X K M E J B S J M A Z E C V S B U L A Z R Z Y
O Y F L V F M M Q J R J W F K H S A K H Y T C E A U L W V A

Raymie Nightingale Reproducible Activities

Fill in the Friendship Blanks.

It's great to have close friends, or Rancheros, as Raymie and her friends would say. Close friends are always there when you need them, can make you laugh, and will go on adventures with you. If you were to write a letter to a close friend, what would you say to show how much you appreciate him or her? You can use the letter below as a template!



Dear _____,
[friend's name]
I am writing this letter to tell you what a/an _____
[adjective]
friend you are. You are my best friend because you _____
[verb/action]
and _____. When we met at (the) _____, you
[verb/action] [place]
_____ and I knew we would be best friends. When we
[past tense verb/action]
hang out, our favorite thing to do is _____. I know that
[hobby]
your favorite color is _____ and your favorite animal is
[color]
_____ because we tell each other everything. You are a
[animal]
good friend because you are _____ and _____. I
[adjective] [adjective]
am _____ that you are my best friend.
[adjective]

Sincerely,

[your name]



Community Engagement Activities

Planning a Read-Aloud

In *Raymie Nightingale*, when Louisiana reads aloud to Raymie during their sleepover, both girls become closer friends through their shared experience. As author and former National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Kate DiCamillo says, “When we read together, we connect. Together, we see the world. Together, we see one another.” Touching on themes of friendship, courage, and community, *Raymie Nightingale* is the perfect book for reading aloud with others.

Here are a few ideas for planning a read-aloud in your area focused on Raymie Nightingale:

Invite kids to read to animals. There are plenty of furry friends who would enjoy being read aloud to from *Raymie Nightingale* (or other great books by Kate DiCamillo). Even if animals can’t talk back, they are always listening! Ask children to find a pet to read out loud to.

Read aloud in the classroom. Teachers and students may want to encourage their class to enjoy *Raymie Nightingale* by simply using a few minutes each day to read aloud together.

Read to the elderly or to others who cannot read for themselves. Raymie and her friends choose to read to someone in a nursing home as a good deed to bolster their pageant applications. Encourage others to do the same as an act of kindness. Identify people who would like to be read to, particularly those who have trouble reading on their own. Have readers pick a book that their chosen person would like, practice reading it out loud, and offer to read to that person for twenty or thirty minutes.

For information about planning community and group reading events, visit
Kate DiCamillo’s website: katedicamillostoriesconnectus.com.

Community Engagement Activities

How to Start Your Own Reading Rancheros Book Club

Book clubs are a great way for patrons, customers, and students to discover similar interests, generate thoughtful discussion, and foster new and growing friendships around reading. Use *Raymie Nightingale* to kick off a Reading Rancheros Book Club at your location to keep readers coming back.

Here are a few easy guidelines for creating a Reading Rancheros Book Club:

- Set up a time and place to meet, such as a library, bookstore, or classroom.
- Allow enough time for members to read the book, being aware that people read in different ways.
- Prepare questions for the meeting. Discussion guides for *Raymie Nightingale* as well as other Kate DiCamillo novels and Walker Books titles can be found on www.candlewick.com.
- Have members take turns picking a new book to read and discuss.

*Below are some questions about *Raymie Nightingale* to inspire a discussion at the Reading Rancheros Book Club.*

- What role does friendship play in the lives of Raymie, Louisiana, and Beverly?
- 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?
- Raymie hopes to win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition so that her father will return. Do you think her winning will bring her dad back?
- There are a number of memorable relationships between the characters in *Raymie Nightingale*. Pick one relationship that you like and explain its significance to you.
- What three words would you use to describe Raymie? Louisiana? Beverly? Describe how the traits of these characters come to life in the book.
- Who do you think is the most hopeful character in the story? What passages describe this person's hopefulness? Who else is hopeful?
- A question that echoes throughout *Raymie Nightingale* is "What is life all about?" Does the story give us answers?

Community Engagement Activities

Raymie Nightingale Essay Contest

Hosting a contest with a written component allows readers to connect their reading experiences with their real lives. Using themes from *Raymie Nightingale* as a guide for topics, host an essay contest for your customers, library patrons, or students. You might want to offer prizes for your essay winners or partner with your local newspaper to have the winners published.

Here are some possible essay topics:

Raymie loves the idea of Florence Nightingale raising her lamp and helping people. She considers Florence someone to look up to as a hero. Do you have a hero? How would you like to be more like that person? Why?

Raymie, Louisiana, and Beverly have stuck by one another despite their differences. What are the most important traits of a true friend, and why?

Raymie spends a lot of time thinking about doing good deeds to put on her application. What kind of good deeds have you done? Write about a time when you did a good deed for someone and how it made you feel.

Community Engagement Activities

Do Good Deeds—Get Involved in Your Community

In *Raymie Nightingale*, Raymie needs good deeds to put on her contest application to prove that she is the best candidate to win. Volunteering time around the community is an important good deed—even for people who aren't entering the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition.

Here are some tips about how to get involved for prospective community volunteers:

Brainstorm. Answer the following questions: Why do you want to volunteer? What are you interested in doing for your community? What do you know how to do that could help someone else? If you can focus first on why and what, the how and where you volunteer will be easier to figure out.

Take friends! Raymie takes Louisiana and Beverly with her to the nursing home. Get your friends involved. Helping your community can be a great way to strengthen a friendship as well as do something good.

Ask parents and teachers. When Raymie is looking for a way to do good deeds, she asks Mrs. Sylvester. If you're not sure where to start, parents and teachers may have ideas on how you can get involved at school or in your town.

Look around your neighborhood. Sometimes the best opportunities for helping are the closest to home. Perhaps someone needs help lifting a heavy box or needs assistance crossing the street. Maybe there is a friend who needs help with math or reading. Always ask, as you never know who could use help!

Research online. Many places have websites or online portals where you can pledge to dedicate your time and service to help those in need.

Community Engagement Activities

More Ideas for Community Service

Here are a few suggestions for young people about getting involved in community service in their area:

Red Cross

In Kate DiCamillo's *Raymie Nightingale*, 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.

Very Friendly Animal Center

Do you like animals? Try volunteering at a shelter. Many animal shelters are short-staffed and have more animals than there are people to care for them. Helping to feed and play with animals while they wait to be adopted can be just as rewarding as having your own pet.

Be an Advocate

Host a fund-raising campaign for a cause that's important to you. For example, if you really like to read, consider raising money for a literacy-based nonprofit. Ask your local library or bookstore if they can provide a space for a fund-raising event and plan a read-a-thon, a raffle, or other book-related games and activities. The profits from your event can be donated to literacy-based organizations, either national or in your community.