

Ten Things about Opal's Mother

1. "Your mama was funny. She could make just about anybody laugh."
2. "She had red hair and freckles."
3. "She liked to plant thing. She had a talent for it. She could stick a tire in the ground and grow a car."
4. "She could run fast. If you were racing her, you couldn't ever let her get a head start, because she would beat you for sure."
5. "She couldn't cook. She burned everything, including water. She had a hard time opening a can of beans. She couldn't make head nor tail of a piece of meat."
6. "... your mama loved a story. She would sit and listen to stories all day long. She loved to be told a story. She especially liked funny ones, stories that made her laugh."
7. "She knew all the constellations, every planet in the nighttime sky. Every last one of them. She could name them. And point them out. And she never got tired of looking up at them."
8. "... she hated being a preacher's wife. She said she just couldn't stand having the ladies at church judge what she was wearing and what she was cooking and how she was singing. She said it made her feel like a bug under a microscope."
9. "She drank. She drank beer. And whiskey. And wine. Sometimes, she couldn't stop drinking. And that made me and you mama fight quite a bit."
10. "... your mama loved you. She loved you very much."

From Chapter Four of *Because of Winn-Dixie*, by KateDiCamillo