

# Reading Rivalry

## *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor

### Chapter 1

Page 5 – Using context clues, what's another word for "kin" (second and third paragraph) – *Your Relatives*

Page 11 – What does this sentence really mean "When mama feet her feed on the ground." (middle of the page) – *When mama gets better or healthy.*

Page 13 – What do you think Charlie is wishing for? Why do you think that? – *individual answers*

After reading Chapter 1, what are some words or phrases that would describe Charlie?

*-unfriendly, unhappy, tough, doesn't like school, hopeful (because she made a wish)*

### Chapter 2

Pages 15-16 – Why didn't Charlie look at Bertha when she answered the question about the squirrel sandwich? – *Charlie was lying so she couldn't look Bertha in the eyes because she knew she wasn't telling the truth.*

### Chapter 5

Page 38 – How do you know that Bertha is not concerned about Charlie not having the right church clothes? – *Bertha was happy to introduce Charlie to the church grownups because she paraded her around "like a beauty queen". Bertha was not at all concerned about Charlie's appearance because she didn't leave church right away and avoid the the other church members, she introduced Charlie to "everybody".*

### Chapter 7

Page 52 – Why do Charlie's feet feel like cinder blocks? – *In the previous chapter, Charlie yelled at Bertha "mean words about minding her own business" and then she "stormed" out of the house. So now that Charlie is returning home after her mean outburst, she is feeling guilty for her actions and is having a hard time saying she is sorry "The worst part was that I couldn't get myself to tell Bertha those things I'd practiced in my head" (page 53). So Charlie's feet feel heavy (like they are cinder blocks) because she knows she did something mean and she needs to apologize, which is hard for her.*

## Chapter 8

Page 64 – What is the meaning of “blessings” throughout this page? - *all the good things in our life; like a home to live in, food to eat, loving parents, brothers, sisters, cousins, and friends to play with, etc.*

Page 65 – Is Charlie right or wrong in believing she did not have a blessing? *Wrong*

What blessing could she have written down? – *Living with Gus and Bertha, Howard as a friend, dessert on the porch every night, a new dress for church*

## Chapter 9

Page 69 – What does it mean when Bertha was “tickled pink”? – *She was very happy. Why was Bertha so happy? – Charlie was starting to form a friendship with Howard. Many of the other children were mean to Howard so Bertha was happy that Charlie was going to be a good friend to Howard.*

Page 74 – After reading the last paragraph, what has Charlie learned about first impressions? – *First impressions can be wrong, even though the Odom’s house was “sad-looking” by being shabby and unkempt there was a lot of happiness and love in that house.*

## Chapter 10

Page 79 – What is a “stray”? – *Someone without a home to live in and who wanders from place to place looking for a home.*

## Chapter 11

Page 81 – Using the context clues in the first few sentences of Chapter 11, what do you think “hightailed” means? – *very quickly* Why did Charlie hightail it to the bus after school? – *She doesn’t like school so she was very anxious for it to be over for the day so she and Howard could start looking for Wishbone.*

Page 86 – What is Mr. Odom referring to when he says “mangy old hound” and “mutt’s a rascal”? – *Wishbone, the dog.*

## Chapter 14

Page 111 – It seems that Charlie might be thinking about where her “home” is. Do you think her idea of “home” is changing? – *individual responses* Why? – *individual responses such as Now that Wishbone is no longer a stray because he now has a home with Charlie, Gus, and Bertha perhaps Charlie could call Gus and Bertha’s home her “home”. Charlie had a “tiny seed of a thought...,”*

## Chapter 15

Page 113 – Why is Charlie’s apology to Audrey a turning point or “ah-ha” moment for her? – *Charlie is starting to realize she can control her anger and even offer an apology to someone she has been unkind to. Previous to this point, Charlie was not able to do these things.*

## Chapter 17

After reading this chapter, would you want Howard as a friend? – *individual responses.* What are some words that would describe Howard? – *forgiving, easy-going, kind, wise, etc.*

## Chapter 23

Page 176 – What can we infer when Jackie looks down at her lap when Charlie says she’ll be going back to Raleigh to live with Mama once she gets her feet on the ground? – *Jackie did not want to look at Charlie because she probably knew that Mama would never get her feet back on the ground and therefore, Charlie would not be going back to Raleigh. So Jackie couldn’t look at Charlie because she didn’t want to hurt her feelings by telling her the truth.*

## Chapter 25

Page 193 – Describe Bertha’s feelings in the first paragraph after she has learned that Charlie got in a fight with T.J. Rainey at Vacation Bible School? – *Bertha was proud of Charlie for sticking up for Howard, her good friend. Bertha also seems to have forgiven Charlie for her poor behavior because she doesn’t yell at her like Mama would have.*

Page 193 – Using context clues from the second paragraph, what are “nasturtiums”? – *Flowers*

## Chapter 26

Page 198-199 – Why did the author use the words “head shot up” to describe Howard’s reaction when he heard the question “So when are you going back to Raleigh?” asked of Charlie? – *These are descriptive words to show that Howard quickly reacted to the question because he was very interested in the answer. At this point in the story, it can be inferred that Howard really likes having Charlie as a friend and does not want her to move back to Raleigh.*

Page 201 – Were you surprised by Howard’s wish (for Charlie to be his friend)? – *individual responses* Was Charlie surprised by Howard’s wish? *Yes, she thought Howard would have better things to wish for than a friendship with her.*

## Chapter 27

Last paragraph of 204 – first paragraph of 205 – Why is this paragraph a turning point or “ah-ha” moment for Charlie? *Charlie realizes that her first impressions of Colby as “the sorriest thing I’d ever seen” was wrong. Colby was a good place to live because of the many wonderful things that had happened to her during the short time she has lived there.*

## Chapter 29

Page 211 – Why was Bertha talking “soft and low with her face to the kitchen wall” when she was on the phone with Mama? *Bertha was talking this way because she didn’t want Charlie to hear her conversation with Mama.* Looking at the dialogue with ellipses (...) what do you think is going on? *Bertha is trying to convince Mama that it would be best for Charlie if she continued to live with her and Gus.*

## Chapter 31

After reading the final chapter, did Charlie’s wish finally come true? Yes Was it the exact wish she was wishing for? No, *we can infer that when Charlie was wishing throughout the story, she was wishing for a happy and not-broken family that included her old family of Mama, Scrappy, and Jackie but the wish that came true is that Charlie got a happy and not-broken family in Bertha, Gus, and Wishbone. Lesson to be learned: It doesn’t matter who makes up a family just as long as they love and care for one another.*