

# Love the whistle stop cafe by frannie flagg



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Love is one of the most powerful forces in the world, and one of the most difficult to describe.

It is one of those emotions that words do not seem to justify a person may feel it, but may not be able to explain it. However, that does not mean that people do not know that love is out there. Many people believe that everyone has one true love somewhere in the world, and spend their lives searching for that person. Love is not difficult to find though.

It exists in many forms, including love between family members, friends, different races, and even the love for oneself, both in the novel *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by Frannie Flagg and in one's own life. The first and most basic form of love is found in the family. From the time a child is born, in usual circumstances, that child is loved unconditionally. A person grows up with their family, and is able to express who they really are. Because of this, ties within the family are usually quite strong. Take for example the relationship between Ildgie and Buddy: Ildgie (Imogene), a daredevilish tomboy, and her older brother Buddy are quite close until Buddy's untimely death.

Ildgie takes his passing with difficulty: " You never saw anybody hurt so much. I thought she would die right along with him" (Flagg, p. 37). Another example of the love felt within a family is Stump (Buddy Jr.), who is Ruth's son, Ruth herself, and Ildgie. Stump's father is murdered, and grows up with Ruth and Ildgie as his parents. Ruth and Ildgie do everything possible to try and keep Stump happy. In fact, when Stump is feeling self-conscious about

being with a female in the sexual sense, it is Ildgie who arranges for him to have intercourse with a friend of hers: “‘ It’s just that I’m scared, Aunt Ildgie. I’m just plain scared’” (Flagg, p. 266). “ The door of the cabin opened, and a freshly bathed, powdered, and perfumed woman with rust-colored hair and apple-green eyes said, ‘ Come on in, sugar,’ as Ildgie drove away” (Flagg, p. 267). Also, another example of family love is how hard Jasper Peavey works, and how he scrapes to white people to get enough money to support his family: “ The burial policy for his family was paid off, he had sent all four of his children through college, and not one of them would ever have to live off tips. That was the one thought that had kept him going all the hard, long, back-breaking years” (Flagg, p.

320). His grandson is embarrassed by how his grandfather acts, but Jasper still managed to succeed when he was younger. The fact that his grandson is able to be embarrassed proves the success if Jasper had done poorly, the grandson would not be well off, and would be bowing and scraping to whites just as his grandfather had. A more unusual type of love for the setting is the love between black and white races.

The blacks are faced by many problems, especially in the South mid-century, but they seem to jump to the occasion and succeed against poor odds. Ildgie and Ruth both admire and care about the blacks in the story. When Onzell kills Frank Bennet, Ildgie knows that the law would have her killed, so she risks her own freedom by going to trial as the accused. This is proof that Ildgie is fond of Onzell and Big George, and even loves them if she’s willing to take such a chance.

As well, Onzell feels great loyalty towards Ruth she kills a man to try and protect Ruth's baby. Onzell is almost like another mother to Stump, and a good friend of Ruth and Idgie's. Another black/white relationship with love involved is the one between Sipsev and the Threadgoode family. Sipsev is their servant, but they treat her like another member of the family. She is there for Idgie to talk to, and whenever Idgie " couldn't bear to be home any longer, she'd just take off and go stay with Sipsev over in Troutville" (Flagg, p.

37). Finally, there is the love that Evelyn has not for the