

How to print this booklet

Open the PDF, choose Print, and set these:

Paper size	US Letter (8.5 × 11 in)
Orientation	Landscape
Print on both sides	On (two-sided / duplex)
Flip on	Short edge
Scale	100% / Actual size — not “Fit to page”
Pages	All

THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Across Five Aprils

Author:

Irene Hunt

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.
Created by didtheyreallyread.com

How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

- 1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
- 2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
- 3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
- 4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

In Chapter 5, Jethro travels to Newton and meets both kindness and meanness. How does this trip help him grow up?

Example answer: I think the trip helps Jethro grow up because he has to handle problems without his family right beside him. Some people are cruel to him, but others, like Ross Milton, show him kindness and respect. Jethro learns that the world is not simple, and he has to be brave even when he feels scared.

Chapter 12

In Chapter 12, the war ends but the characters still face loss and change. What message do you think the ending gives about growing up?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

In Chapter 11, people argue about how the war should end and how enemies should be treated. What opinion does Jethro seem to form, and do you agree with him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

In Chapter 9, Eb is called a deserter. What does deserter mean, and why is Jethro's decision about Eb so difficult?

Example answer: A deserter is a soldier who leaves the army without permission. Jethro's decision is difficult because Eb is in trouble, but he is also family and needs help. I think Jethro feels torn between obeying the law and doing what feels merciful. This shows that war can make right and wrong hard to understand.

In Chapter 12, the war ends but the characters still face loss and change. What message do you think the ending gives about growing up?

Example answer: I think the ending shows that growing up means learning that happy and sad things can happen at the same time. The war is over, which should feel joyful, but the characters still carry grief. Jethro has changed because he has seen unfairness, death, and courage. To me, the book says growing up means becoming wiser and more caring.

Chapter 1

In Chapter 1, what do you learn about the Creighton family and the arguments about the coming war? How do these details set the mood?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

In Chapter 10, Jethro writes to President Lincoln and receives an answer. How does this event change Jethro's view of justice or leadership?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

In Chapter 9, Eb is called a deserter. What does deserter mean, and why is Jethro's decision about Eb so difficult?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

In Chapter 2, Bill struggles with what side to support. What does his struggle show about his character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

After the young men begin leaving for war in Chapter 3, what do you predict will be hardest for Jethro at home? Use events from the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

In Chapter 8, Jenny and Shadrach's story becomes more important. What do their choices show about love and responsibility during war?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

In Chapter 7, the news from the war brings grief to the Creightons. How does the family show strength when they are hurting?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

In Chapter 4, the Creightons face suspicion because of Bill's choice. What does this chapter teach about judging a whole family for one person's actions?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

In Chapter 5, Jethro travels to Newton and meets both kindness and meanness. How does this trip help him grow up?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

In Chapter 6, words like courage, disgrace, and loyalty matter to the characters. Choose one of these words and explain what it means in the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
