

How to print this booklet

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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 So Many Seas

Author:

Ruth Behar

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.

How does this chapter show the difference between what a character wants for herself and what family or society expects from her?

Example answer: I noticed that the character has her own hopes, but the people around her do not always ask what she wants. This made me think about how hard it would be to obey family rules when they feel unfair. The chapter shows that expectations can come from love, fear, tradition, or power. I think the character is beginning to understand that wanting her own future does not mean she does not love her family.

Chapter 40

What is the main idea or message of this chapter so far, and how does it fit with the book’s themes of family, exile, identity, and hope?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

How did your feelings about one character change during this chapter? What caused the change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

How does this chapter make you think about courage? Who shows courage, and what kind of courage is it?

Example answer: This chapter made me think that courage is not always loud or heroic. Sometimes courage means continuing even when a person is scared, lonely, or unsure what will happen next. I think the narrator shows courage by paying attention to what is happening and trying to keep her sense of self. Her courage feels realistic because she is still afraid, but she keeps going.

How does the chapter connect personal family history to a larger event, such as the Spanish Inquisition, migration, revolution, or political change?

Example answer: The chapter connects history to one family by showing how big events change everyday life. Instead of just learning a date or a name from a textbook, I see how a girl's home, family, language, and future can be affected. That makes the history feel more real to me. It also shows that choices made by leaders can reach into people's private lives.

Chapter 1

What is the most important thing that happened in this chapter, and how does it affect Benvenida, Reina, Alegra, Paloma, or another character so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

What is one detail in this chapter that made the historical setting feel real to you?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

How does music, storytelling, reading, writing, or learning appear in this chapter, and why might it be important?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

How does the time period in this chapter, such as 1492 Spain, 1920s Turkey, 1960s Cuba, or a later setting, shape the choices a character can make?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

What does the narrator of this chapter want most right now, and what details show you that?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

What moral question, or question about right and wrong, comes up in this chapter? How would you answer it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

How does this chapter show the importance of remembering stories from the past?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Which moment in this chapter helped you understand the family's Jewish or Sephardic heritage better? Explain what you learned.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Choose one word or phrase from this chapter that felt important, unfamiliar, or powerful. What do you think it means, and why does it matter here?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

If this chapter had a one-word title, what would you choose, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

What is something a character cannot control in this chapter? What is something she can control?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

How does this chapter show the difference between what a character wants for herself and what family or society expects from her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What emotion did you feel most strongly while reading this chapter, and what part of the chapter made you feel that way?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

How does the narrator’s age affect the way she understands what is happening around her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

What do you think the title Across So Many Seas means in relation to this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

What question would you ask Benvenida, Reina, Alegra, or Paloma after reading this chapter? Why would you ask it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

How does travel, exile, or leaving home appear in this chapter? What does it seem to cost the character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

How does the chapter connect personal family history to a larger event, such as the Spanish Inquisition, migration, revolution, or political change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Which character do you understand better after this chapter, and what new detail changed your thinking?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

What is one choice a character makes in this chapter? Do you agree with that choice, or do you think the character should have done something different?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

How does the author show fear in this chapter without only saying that a character is afraid? Use a detail from the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

What is one way the chapter shows loss? What is one way it shows survival?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

How does language matter in this chapter, whether through Spanish, Ladino, Turkish, English, or another language?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What does this chapter reveal about the power adults, leaders, or governments have over young people’s lives?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

How does a family relationship in this chapter seem loving, complicated, unfair, or changing? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

What do you learn about the expectations placed on girls or women in this chapter? How does the character respond to those expectations?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

How does this chapter show a conflict between obeying and resisting? Which side does the character seem closer to right now?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What connection can you make between this chapter and another story you know about moving, immigration, or being treated unfairly?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

What object, song, food, language, prayer, or tradition stands out in this chapter, and what might it symbolize?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

What prediction can you make about how the events of this chapter might affect the character later? What evidence supports your prediction?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

How is hope shown in this chapter, even if the events are difficult or sad?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

What is one problem the character faces in this chapter, and what strengths does she use to deal with it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

How does this chapter make you think about courage? Who shows courage, and what kind of courage is it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

Pick a sentence or moment that seems especially meaningful. Why did it stand out to you?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

What does the chapter suggest about belonging?
Does the character feel at home, out of place, or
somewhere in between?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

What details help you picture the setting in this
chapter? Describe the place as if you were
explaining it to someone who has not read the
book.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What did you notice about the way Ruth Behar uses voice, memory, or point of view in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

How does this chapter show that history is not just dates and facts, but something that happens to real families?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
